

love★comTM



Story & Art by

Aya Nakahara

5



Shojo Beat

love★com

Story & Art by
Aya Nakahara

5

love★com

contents

5

Chapter 17	4
Chapter 18	48
Chapter 19	89
Chapter 20	131
Extra! Character Profiles	171
Glossary	179

The Story So Far...

Risa and Ôtani are their class's lopsided comedy duo...except that now, Risa's fallen in love with Ôtani! With the support of all their friends, Risa screws up the courage to tell him how she feels...but Ôtani thinks she's joking! Finally, though, she manages to get the message across, only to freak out at his reaction.

Riso's solution is to avoid Ôtani at all costs! But somehow, the more she tries to do that, the more they find themselves alone, especially when they go to Hakkaido on their class trip. Things are getting really weird between them, and Riso decides that being a comedy duo is better than putting up with these uncomfortable silences. But just when she's about to tell Ôtani to forget she'd ever said anything, he tells her he can't suddenly think of her as girlfriend material... Does this mean it's all over for Risa?!

♥ To really get all the details, check out *Lovely★Complex* Vol. 1-4, available at bookstores everywhere!!



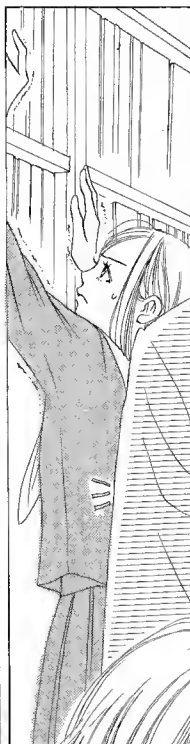
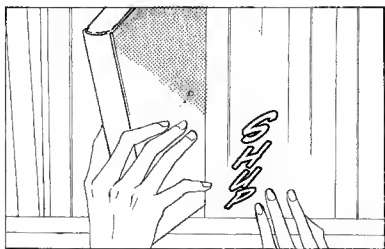
love★com

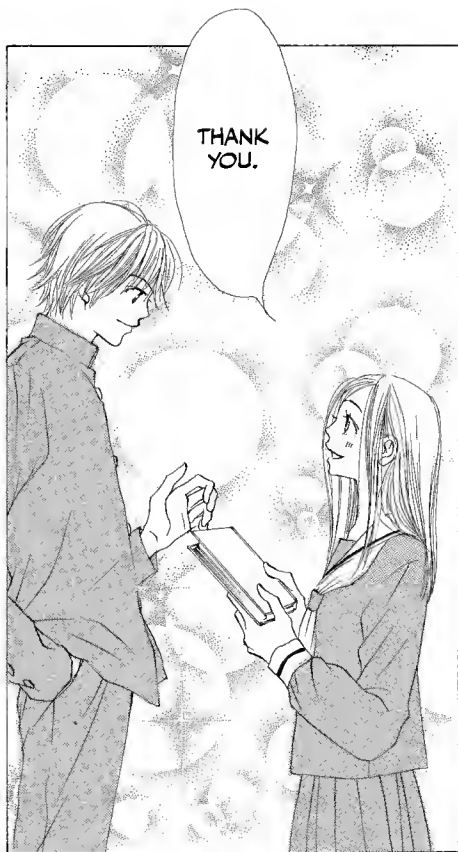
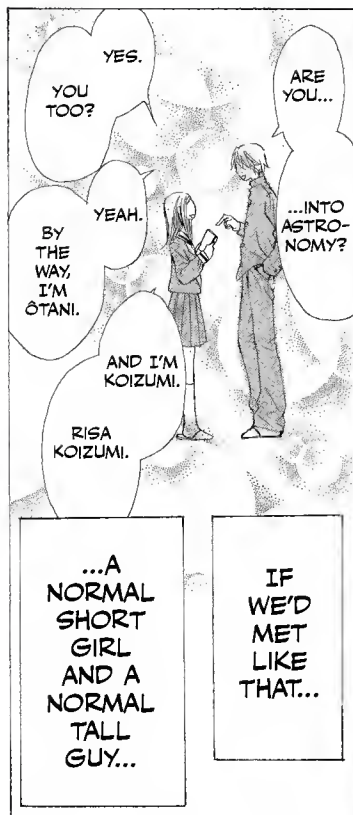
5

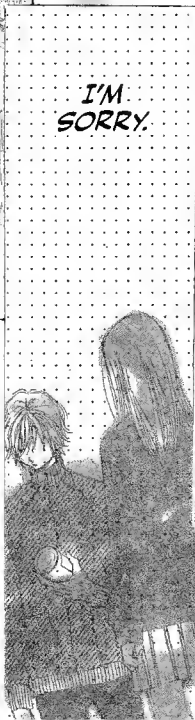
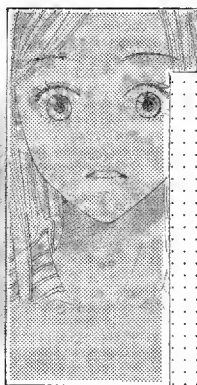
Story & Art by
Aya Nakahara



CHAPTER 17







A black and white manga-style illustration of a young man with long, straight hair. He is wearing a striped shirt under a jacket. He is holding chopsticks to his mouth, looking slightly annoyed or bored. There are sound effects 'DUP' and 'FWOP' and the word 'blah' repeated in a dotted font around him.

A black and white photograph of a city skyline at night, with a large, bright, rectangular light source in the foreground. The light source is a large, white, rectangular shape that appears to be a screen or a large window, and it is the source of the text in the image. The city skyline is visible in the background, with many lights from buildings and streets. The text is written in a bold, sans-serif font, and it is arranged in two lines: "HE'S SORRY." on the top line and "WELL, SO AM I." on the bottom line. The text is centered within the white rectangular area. The overall image has a grainy, high-contrast quality, typical of a photocopy or a low-quality scan of a photograph. The background is dark, and the city lights are bright, creating a strong contrast. The white rectangular area is a prominent feature, and it is the focus of the image. The text is clear and legible, and it is the main message of the image. The image is a simple, yet effective, visual representation of the text. The use of a city skyline at night adds a sense of context and atmosphere to the image. The large, bright rectangular area suggests a screen or a window, which is a common place for text to be displayed. The overall image is a good example of how to use a photograph to enhance a message. The image is a simple, yet effective, visual representation of the text. The use of a city skyline at night adds a sense of context and atmosphere to the image. The large, bright rectangular area suggests a screen or a window, which is a common place for text to be displayed. The overall image is a good example of how to use a photograph to enhance a message.

HE'S
SORRY.

WELL,
SO
AM I.

OWW!

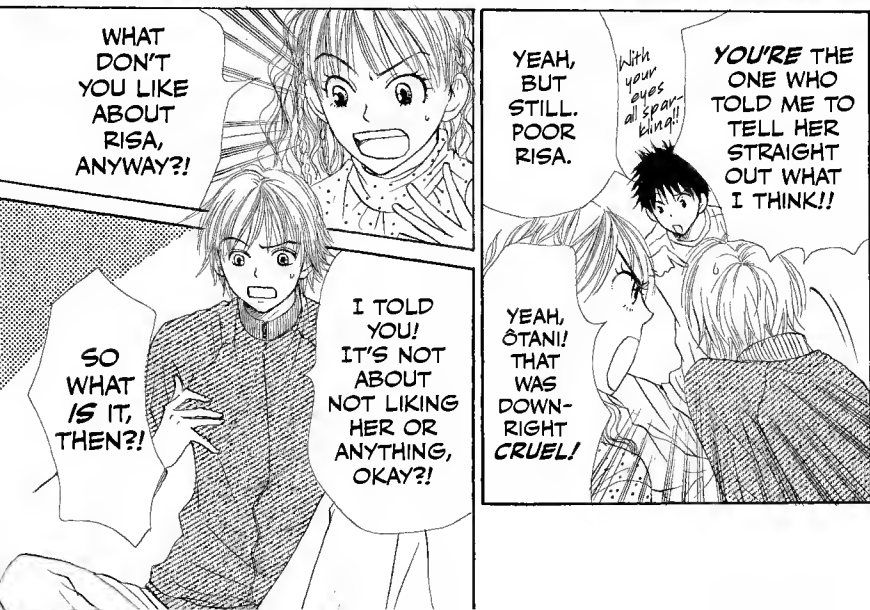
WE'RE JUST GETTING STARTED HERE!!

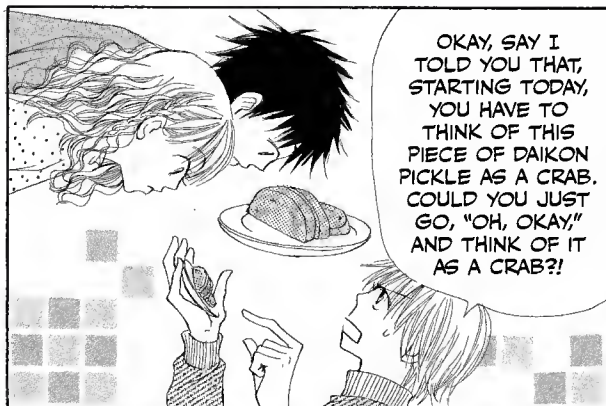
GYAAAAARGH

STOP!
YOU'RE
KILLING
ME!
STOP!!

UNCLE!
UNCLE!!

**STOP!
YOU'RE
KILLING
ME!
STOP!!**



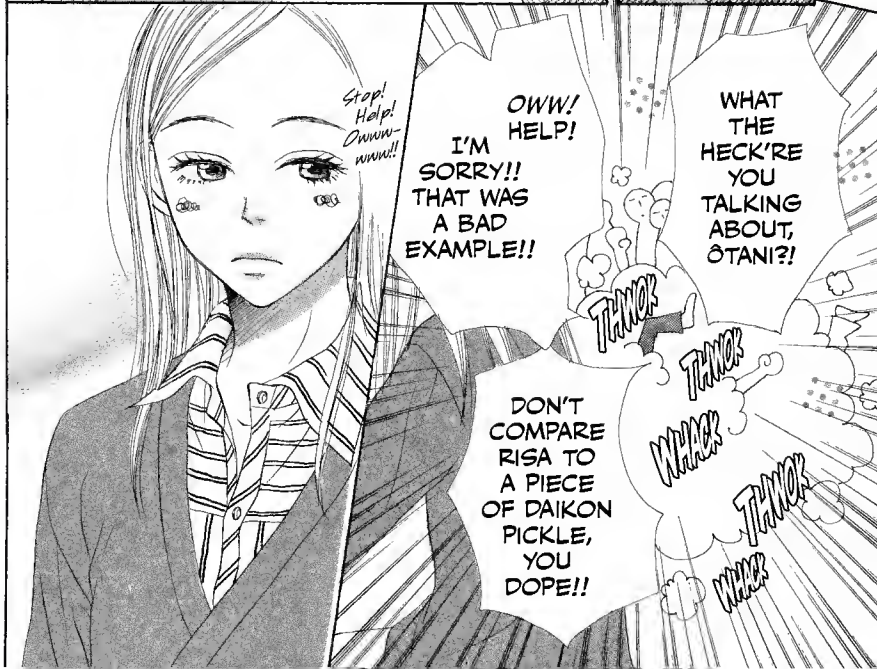


OKAY, SAY I
TOLD YOU THAT,
STARTING TODAY,
YOU HAVE TO
THINK OF THIS
PIECE OF DAIKON
PICKLE AS A CRAB.
COULD YOU JUST
GO, "OH, OKAY,"
AND THINK OF IT
AS A CRAB?!



IT'S...
WELL...

LIKE...
SEE...



Stop!
Help!
Owww-
www!!

OWW!
HELP!
I'M
SORRY!!
THAT WAS
A BAD
EXAMPLE!!

WHAT
THE
HECK'RE
YOU
TALKING
ABOUT,
ÔTANI?!

DON'T
COMPARE
RISA TO
A PIECE
OF DAIKON
PICKLE,
YOU
DOPE!!

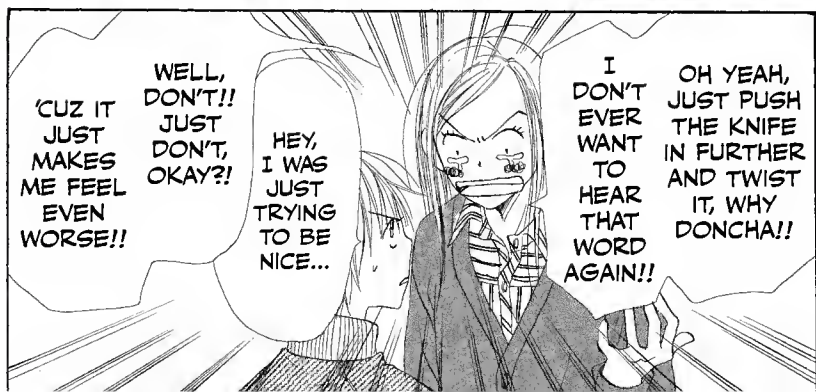
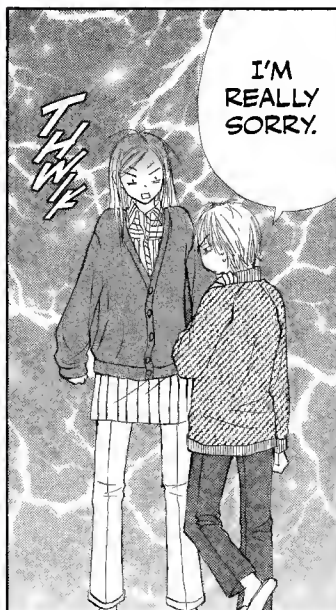
THANK

THANK
THANK
THANK

THANK

THANK





DON'T SAY ANYTHING TO ME!!

SO WHAT'M I SUPPOSED TO SAY TO YOU, THEN?!

I TOLD YOU, LET'S JUST **FORGET** ANY OF THAT EVER HAPPENED!!

GLAD YOU SEEM TO BE OKAY...

BUT ANYWAY...

You heard that?!

I KNOW I COULDN'T BECOME A CRAB IN A MILLION YEARS!!

DON'T MIND ME, I'M JUST A LOWLY DAIKON PICKLE, ANYWAY!!

LOOK, I'M SORRY, THAT WAS A BAD EXAMPLE...

OKAY?! I AM NOTHING LIKE OKAY!

IF THAT'S FINE WITH YOU, THEN FINE. I'M COOL WITH THAT.

TUM!

OKAY! GOOD BOY!

DON'T **EVER** MENTION THAT SUBJECT AGAIN, **EVER!**

STARTING RIGHT NOW!

WAS IT
THE WAY
IT WAS
BEFORE?

DID I
PUT ON A
GOOD SHOW
RIGHT NOW
WITH THAT
ALL HANSHIN-
KYOJIN
ROUTINE
BACK
THERE?

HEY...

SIGH...

Oh,
really?
See you
later,
then!

We're
going
to take
a bath
now.

Ha
ha
ha
ha

HIKARI
JUST GOT
ASKED OUT
BY THIS
GUY IN
CLASS 5!

HEY
YOU GUYS,
GUESS
WHAT?!

No
way!

HE
ASKED
HER
OUT?!

I BET
IT'S THE
GUY SHE
THOUGHT
WAS
KINDA
CUTE!

OMI-
GOD!

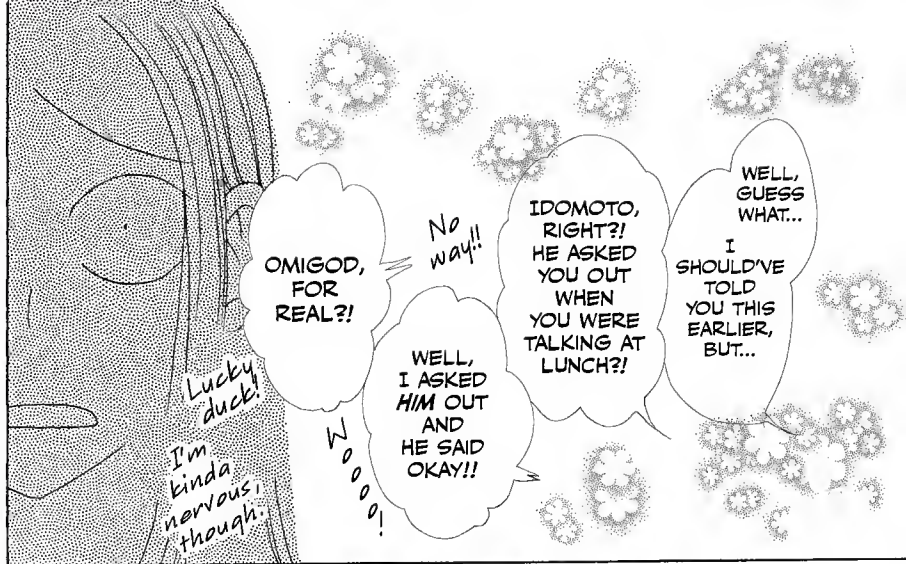
RISA...

SO IT'S
WORKING...

OH,
GOOD.

YEAH.

I WAS
PRETTY
AMAZED.



OMIGOD,
FOR
REAL?!

No
way!!

IDOMOTO,
RIGHT?!
HE ASKED
YOU OUT
WHEN
YOU WERE
TALKING AT
LUNCH?!

WELL,
GUESS
WHAT...

I
SHOULD'VE
TOLD
YOU THIS
EARLIER,
BUT...

WELL,
I ASKED
HIM OUT
AND
HE SAID
OKAY!!

Lucky
duck!
I'm
kinda
nervous,
though.

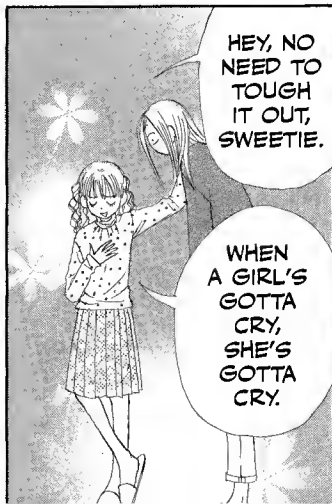
Woooo!!



RISA!

WHY?!
WHY
ONLY
ME?!
WHAT IS
THIS?!

TUMP



HEY, NO
NEED TO
TOUGH
IT OUT,
SWEETIE.

WHEN
A GIRL'S
GOTTA
CRY,
SHE'S
GOTTA
CRY.



Why...
Why only
me...
What is
this...?

RISA?!

K
T
U
N
K

...while I
get totally
rejected on
day one to
suffer the
rest of the
trip in squirm
city...?

Everyone
else is
getting
together
and having
a great
time...



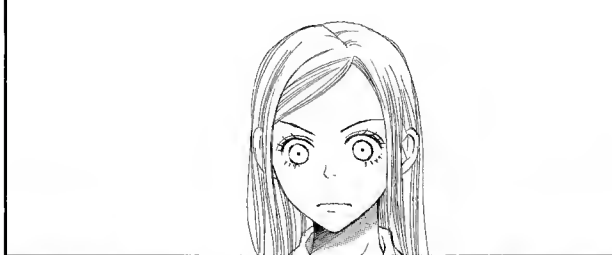
Hello. ☆
Nakahara here.

We're up to
Volume 5. Oh dear.
Almost two whole
years have passed
since I started this
series. Oh dear.
It's all thanks to
your warm support.
Thank you so much.

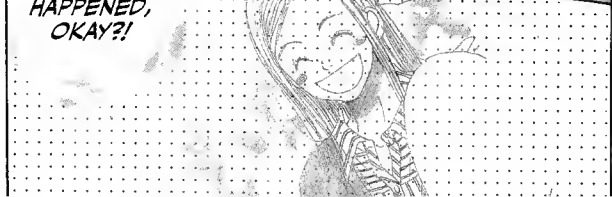
Ummm...
It's really amazing
how I cannot think
of a single thing to
write. ha ha ha ha
Like, oops, two hours
have passed while I
was just sitting here
with the pen in my
hand. ha ha ha ha

Oh, yeah. While
I was turning in
manga installments
every month these
past two years, my
sister got married.
Her hubby's the kind
of guy who gets hurt
breaking up cat
fights and who goes
around saying
"Good evening!"
to stray dogs.
He also helps me
out with my manga.
He's a great guy.

Ats Ei Kome,
I wish you lots
of happiness! ☆



**LET'S
FORGET
ANY OF
THIS EVER
HAPPENED,
OKAY?!**



"LET'S
JUST
FORGET
IT EVER
HAPPENED."

CAN I?

FWOO

*I'm
turning
the
lights out,
okay?*

Okay.

I
KNOW
THAT'S
WHAT I
SAID...

...BUT CAN
I REALLY
FORGET
ABOUT IT
MYSELF?

CAN I
FORGET
THAT
I LOVE
ÔTANI...?
AND
THAT I
TOLD
HIM I
DO?

RISA?

ABOUT
ÔTANI.

ARE
YOU
GIVING
UP ON
HIM?

ABOUT
WHAT?

SO
WHAT'RE
YOU
GONNA
DO?

HMM?

I'M NOT
RUINING
YOUR
ROMANTIC
MEMORIES,
NO WAY.

NO,
YOU GO
AROUND
WITH
NAKAO
LIKE YOU
WANTED,
NOBU.

WE
HAVE A
FREE DAY,
REMEMBER?
YOU WANT
TO GO
AROUND
WITH ME?

LIKE,
WHAT
DO YOU
WANNA
DO DAY
AFTER
TOMOR-
ROW?

I COULD
EVEN GO
AROUND
WITH
OTANI.

I'LL
FIND
SOME-
BODY.

BUT
THEN
WHAT'RE
YOU
GOING
TO DO,
RISA?

COME
ON, RISA,
I'M
SERIOUS...

I mean,
there's no
way a pickled
radish could
ever become
a crab,
after all...

Well,
yeah.

YEAH?

HEY,
RISA...?

I'M
REALLY
SORRY.

HEH?
ABOUT
WHAT?

...

BUT WE
CAN'T
DO THAT
IF I AVOID
HIM ALL
THE TIME,
CAN WE?

I MEAN,
I SAID LET'S
FORGET
ABOUT ALL
THAT STUFF
CUZ I
WANTED TO
GO BACK
TO THE WAY
IT WAS
BEFORE.



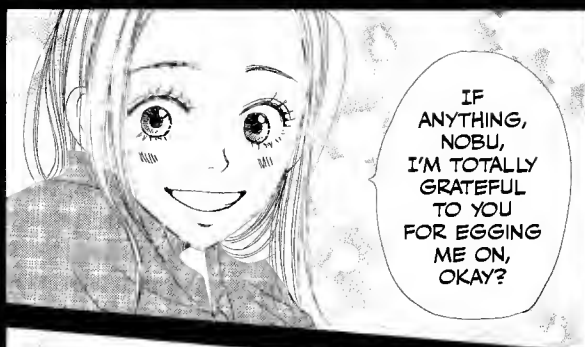
WHAT'RE
YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?
COME ON,
NOBU.

SO I
FEEL
LIKE IT'S
PARTLY
MY FAULT.

PWWP

I WAS
NAGGING
YOU ALL THE
TIME ABOUT
TELLING HIM
AND STUFF.
LIKE, I
PRACTICALLY
MADE YOU
DO IT.

WELL,
CUZ...



IF
ANYTHING,
NOBU,
I'M TOTALLY
GRATEFUL
TO YOU
FOR EGGING
ME ON,
OKAY?



RISA...



I TOLD
HIM 'CUZ I
WANTED TO.
YOU WEREN'T
EVEN THERE.
I DID IT ON
MY OWN.

I
KNOW,
BUT
STILL...



HEY,
WILL YOU
LET US
SLEEP?!

Cut
that
out,
you
guys!

Naughty,
naughty.

Hee
hee
hee
hee

OOH,
AAH,
AAA!

AAH,
SO
THAT'S
WHERE
YOU
LIKE IT,
RISA?

NOBU!!
OOH,
YESSS!
RIGHT
THERE!!

GWOMP

R
I
S
A
!!



YOU THINK KOIZUMI'S GONNA BE OKAY?

SO YEAH, FINE.

LET'S JUST FORGET ANY OF THAT EVER HAPPENED. LET'S GO BACK TO HOW IT WAS BEFORE.

HEY...

SNOOZE

...





IF YOU
DON'T
HURRY UP,
YOU'LL
GET LEFT
BEHIND
AGAIN!

OWWW...



THAT'S
RIGHT.

Hah
heh heh.
Omon,
we're
gon'.

HEY,
THAT
HURT!

I DON'T
WANT
THINGS TO
BE WEIRD
BETWEEN US
ANYMORE.



AND GO
BACK TO
BEING ALL
HANSHIN-
KYOJIN,
LIKE
BEFORE.

I WANT TO
FORGET
ANY OF
THAT EVER
HAPPENED...



OKAY.

LET'S
BUY
SNACKS
FOR
TONIGHT!
♥



OTANI.
OTANI!

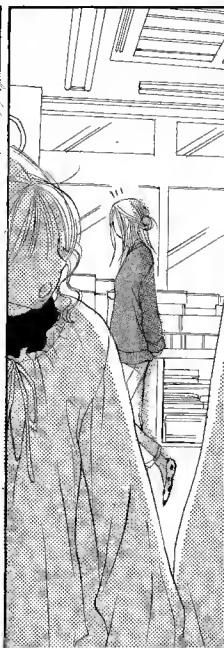
HUH?



YEAH,
'CUZ
LOOK,
THIS
IS A
TOTALLY
LOCAL
MAG!

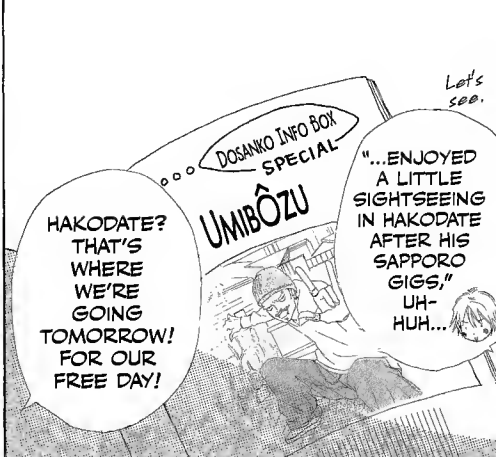
OH, WOW!!
TOTALLY
COOL!
I HAVEN'T
SEEN THIS!

LOOK
AT THIS!
THERE'S
A STORY
ABOUT
UMIBÔZU!





LET'S DO IT!
LET'S DO
THE UMIBÔZU
HAKODATE
TOUR
TOMORROW!



HAKODATE?
THAT'S
WHERE
WE'RE
GOING
TOMORROW!
FOR OUR
FREE DAY!

Let's
see.
"...ENJOYED
A LITTLE
SIGHTSEEING
IN HAKODATE
AFTER HIS
SAPPORO
GIGS,"
UH-
HUH...



I WANNA
POSE FOR
PICTURES
IN ALL THE
PLACES
HE'S
PICTURED!

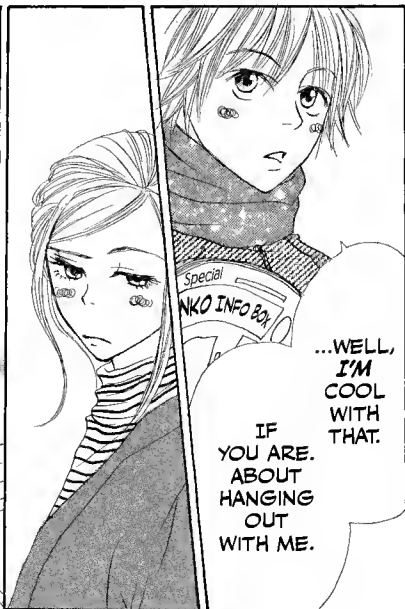
I WANNA
TRY
THIS ICE
CREAM!
HE SAYS
IT'S
REALLY
GOOD!



I
KNOW.

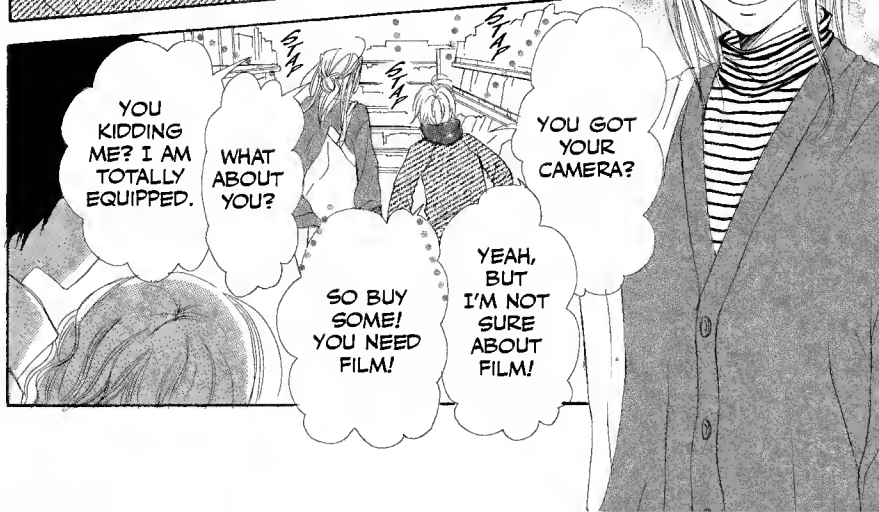
I TOLD
YOU TO
FORGET
ABOUT IT AND
JUST ACT
NORMAL!!

AND I'M
TRYING TO
DO THAT,
OKAY? I
SWEAR I'M
TRYING.



IF
YOU ARE.
ABOUT
HANGING
OUT
WITH ME.

...WELL,
I'M
COOL
WITH
THAT.



THIS IS
WORKING
OUT.

I THINK
WE CAN
GO BACK
TO THE
WAY WE
WERE.

I'M SO
GLAD
THEY'RE
GETTING
ALONG.

GUESS
WE
DON'T
HAVE TO
WORRY
ABOUT
THEM
TOO
MUCH.

LIKE
THIS?

HAHA!
HEE
HEE
HEE
HEE.

You
look
so
dumb!

WILL YOU
HURRY UP?!
THIS IS
EMBAR-
RASSING!

tee
hee

tee
hee

Forget
the
pose
and
take a
normal
one.

No
way!!

I
REALLY
LOVE
THIS GUY.
I REALLY
DO.

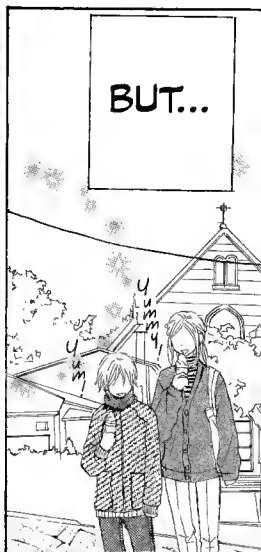


EXCUSE ME?
COULD YOU
TAKE OUR
PICTURE?

...I'D
RATHER
JUST STAY
FRIENDS,
LIKE THIS.



BUT...



SAY
CHEESE!

OH
YEAH,
SURE.

YOU
GUYS
READY?
CHEESE!

THANK
YOU!

...IF
TELLING
HIM THAT
IS GOING
TO MAKE
THINGS
WEIRD
BETWEEN
US...



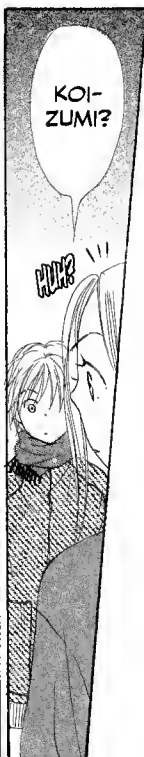
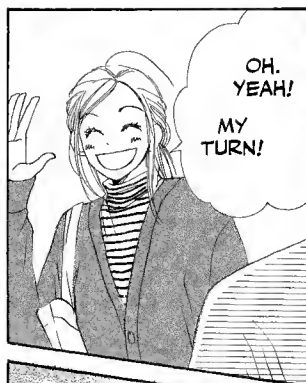
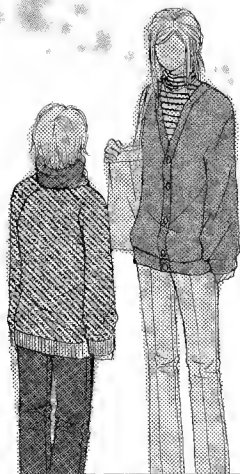


I'M
SORRY.

I CAN
UNDER-
STAND
WHERE
ÔTANI'S
COMING
FROM.

I GUESS
NOBODY
WOULD EVER
LOOK AT US
AND THINK
WE'RE
GOING OUT.

I CAN'T JUST
SUDDENLY
START
GOING OUT
WITH YOU
OR THINKING
OF YOU
THAT WAY.



BUT IF
THERE'S NO
WAY WE'RE
EVER GOING
TO GET
TOGETHER...

...I GUESS
THERE'S
NO POINT
BEING
IN LOVE
WITH HIM.

SO
FORGET
IT.



ISN'T IT
ALMOST
TIME TO
MEET UP
WITH
EVERY-
BODY?

...AND GET
OVER HIM.
BEACUSE
THIS IS
TOTALLY
HOPELESS.

I'LL
JUST
FORGET
ANY OF
THAT
EVER
HAPPENED...

YOU
WHAAAT
?!

I lost
my
wallet...

HOLE

Let
me try
calling
Nakao.

OH,
YEAH.
YOU
WANNA
HEAD
BACK?

YEAH...

HUH?

WHAT?

GROG



ABOUT
A
THOU-
SAND?!



I ONLY
HAD
ABOUT
A THOU-
SAND
YEN LEFT
ANYWAY.



KEEP TRACK
OF YOUR
MONEY, DOPE!
THE STUFF
DOESN'T
GROW ON
TREES!!



JUST
IN CASE
WHAT?



NO
WAY IT'S
STILL
LYING
THERE.



LET'S
GO BACK
TO ALL
THE PLACES
WE WENT
TODAY,
JUST IN
CASE.



NO
WALLETS
TURNED
IN.



*Have
either.*



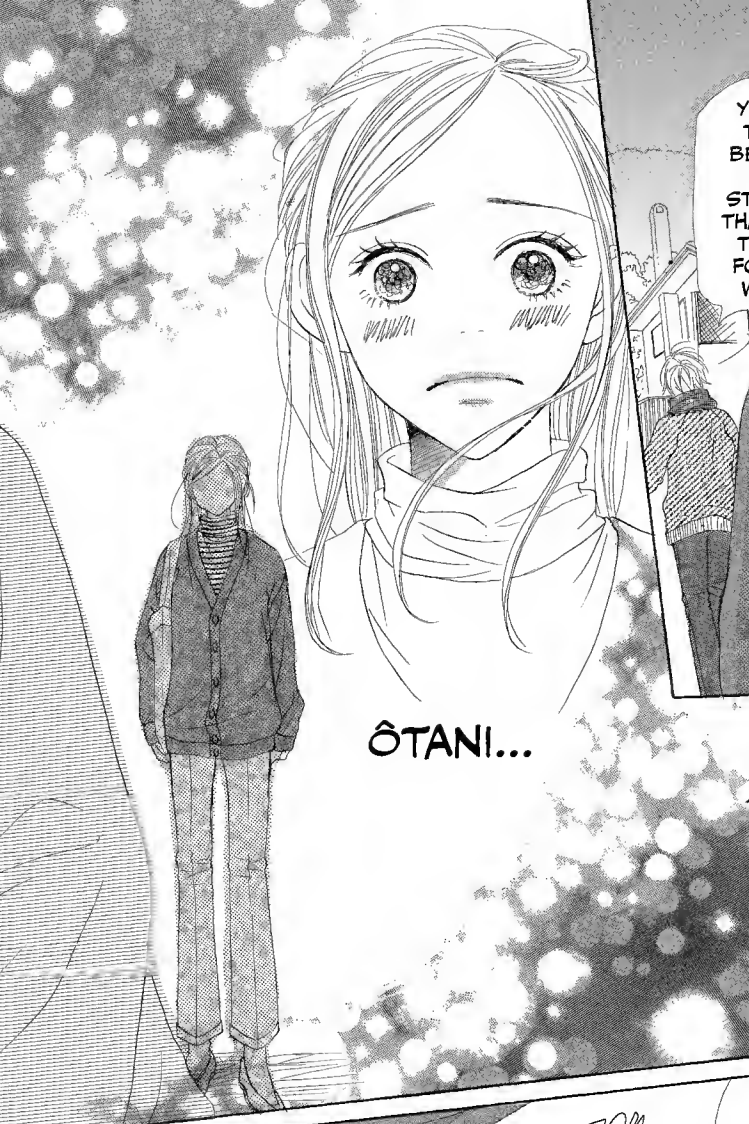
LET
THEM SAY
WHATEVER
THE HECK
THEY
WANT!



IF WE'RE
LATE AGAIN,
TOGETHER,
YOU KNOW
WHAT
THEY'RE
ALL GONNA
SAY?!



BUT IT'S
TIME TO
MEET
UP WITH
EVERY-
BODY!



YOU GOT
TIME TO
BE SAYING
STUPID
STUFF LIKE
THAT, USE IT
TO LOOK
FOR YOUR
WALLET!

ÔTANI...

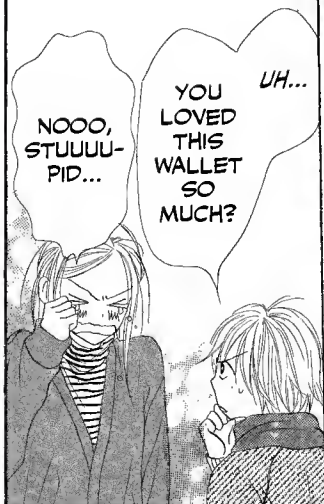
SO
LET'S
GO!

AND IT'S
ROUND,
WITH TWO
BUNNIES
ON IT...

IT'S
RED...

TOK

WHAT'S
IT LOOK
LIKE?



NOOO,
STUUUU-
PID...

YOU
LOVED
THIS
WALLET
SO
MUCH?

UH...



GYA



I'LL
LOOK
ON THIS
SIDE,
SO YOU
LOOK
OVER
THERE...

...WHY DOES
HE HAVE TO
BE SO NICE
TO ME? IT'S
NOT FAIR.

...JUST
WHEN I
DECIDED
TO GIVE
UP AND
GET OVER
HIM...



WHAT'S
YOUR
PROBLEM...

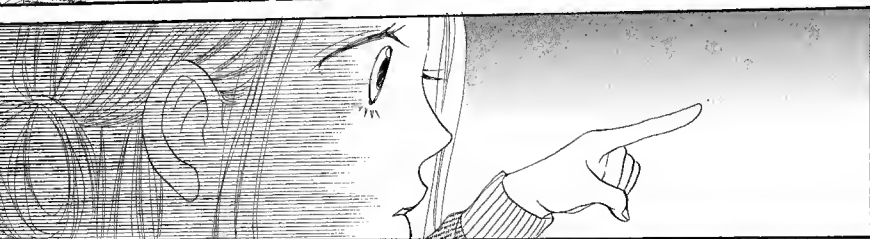
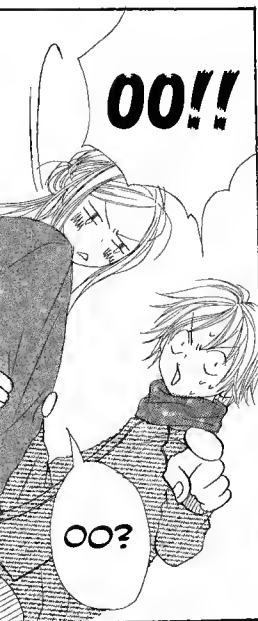


OH,
JUST
SHUT UP,
WILL
YOUUUUU?

STUPID?!
I'M
TRYING
TO HELP
YOU
FIND...

YOU
REALLY
DRIVE ME
NUTS,
YOU KNOW
THAAAT?

JUST...





SCOWL



UMIBÔZU!!



GRIN

**WARGH!
WHAT?!
ME?! SAY
WHAT?!**

H-HEY!

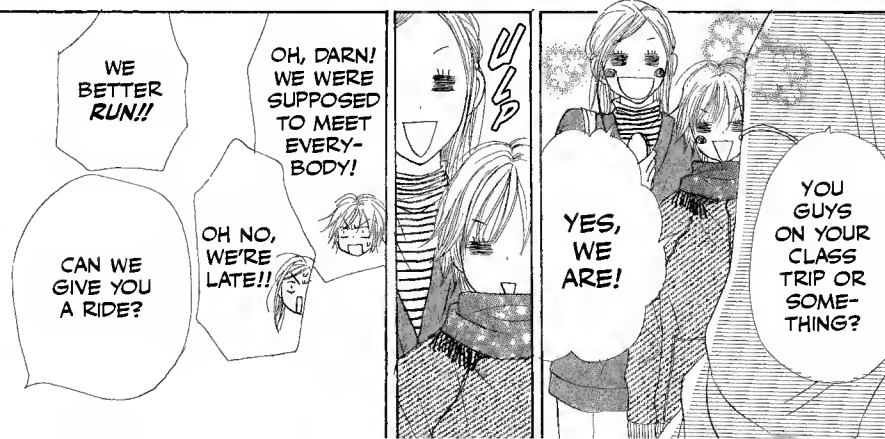
**G-G-G-G-O
OVER
THERE AND
S-S-S-SAY
SOMETHING
TO HIM!**

**ANY-
THING!**

*Come
on.*

*Now...
he's really nice...*







YOU,
YOUNG
FELLA.

HELP
ME FIND
A CAB,
WILL YA?

No?!

SURE!!



**MRS.
UMIBÔZU!!
AND
UMIBÔZU
JUNIOR!!**

OH.

THANKS...

Okay?

BOZUUU...

So he's
married...

HEY, QUIT
CALLING
ME THAT!
IT'S
"DADDY"
TO YOU,
KIDDO.

*Cut that
out!*



WE WERE
JUST ABOUT
TO GRAB
A TAXI AND
HEAD TO
THE STATION.
WE'LL DROP
YOU OFF!



HE REALLY
LIKED IT
HERE WHEN
HE CAME
UP FOR A
SHOW AND
WANTED
US TO SEE
IT TOO.

YUP.

ARE
YOU ON
VACATION
HERE?

I KNOW
HE'S A BIT
SCARY-
LOOKING,
BUT
ACTUALLY
HE'S
REALLY
SWEET.



Don't
see any
cabs
around
here,
do ya?

Oooh!
You're
kinda
on the
small
side.

UMM...



UH-UH.

WE ONLY
STARTED
DATING
YEARS
AFTER WE
GRADUATED.



HIGH
SCHOOL.
WE WERE
CLASS-
MATES.

REALLY?!

SO YOU'VE
BEEN
TOGETHER
SINCE
YOU WERE
IN HIGH
SCHOOL?!



HE
IS?

WHERE
DID THE
TWO
OF YOU
MEET?



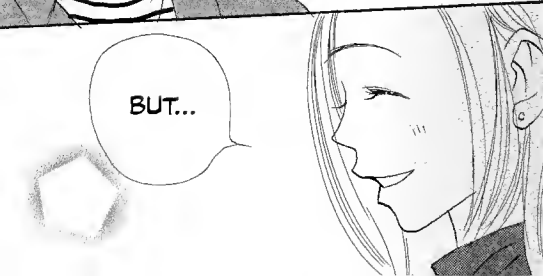
WE'D BEEN
FRIENDS FOR
SO LONG,
I COULDN'T
REALLY IMAGINE
GOING OUT
WITH HIM OR
THINKING
OF HIM
THAT WAY.



...I
TOTALLY
TURNED
HIM
DOWN,
THEN.

HE
ASKED
ME OUT
BACK
IN HIGH
SCHOOL,
BUT...

YOU
DID?!



BUT...

...

...HMM...

REALLY.



YOU
NEVER
KNOW,
DO
YOU?

LOOK
AT US
NOW.
WE'RE
MARRIED
AND HAVE
A CHILD
TOGETHER.

*Life's
funny.*

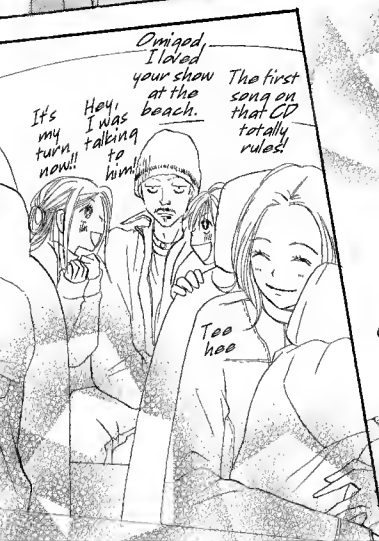




GUESS
THIS
MEANS A
PIECE OF
DAIKON
PICKLE CAN
TURN INTO
A CRAB.

HUH?

WHAT
WAS
THAT?



It's my
turn now!!
Hey, I was
talking to
him!
Omgad,
I loved
your show
at the
beach.
The first
song on
that CD
totally
rules!

Too
hee



NOTHING!

COME
ON,
LET'S
GO!

I'M
SORRY.

AFTER ALL,
I DIDN'T
FALL IN
LOVE WITH
ÔTANI ALL
OF A
SUDDEN
EITHER.

I CAN'T JUST
SUDDENLY
START GOING
OUT WITH
YOU OR THINK-
ING OF YOU
THAT WAY.

WELL,
OF
COURSE
NOT.

SO EVEN
IF HIS
ANSWER
NOW
IS "I'M
SORRY"...

MAYBE
IF I PUT
A LOT OF
TIME AND
EFFORT
INTO IT,
THEN
SLOWLY...

Ha-
ha
ha
ha

HIS
FEELINGS
MIGHT
CHANGE,
AND I'LL
GET A
DIFFERENT
ANSWER
FROM HIM
LATER.

Sorry!
You're
late
again!!



I DON'T
HAVE
TO MAKE
MYSELF
GET OVER
HIM JUST
YET.

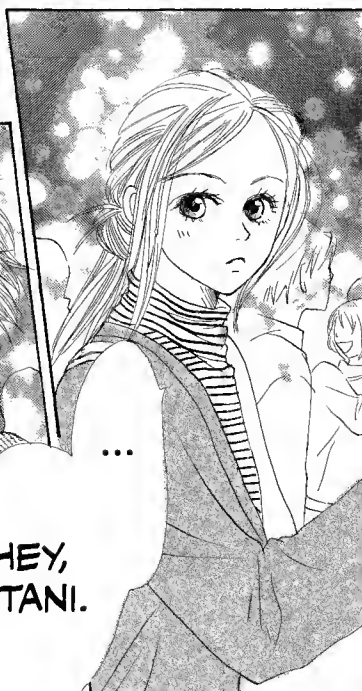
WOW,
HOW
BEAUTIFUL!

YEAH,
WOW!



HM?

HEY,
ÔTANI.



...



WHAT A
GREAT
END TO
A GREAT
DAY.

I STILL
CAN'T
BELIEVE
WE MET
UMIBÔZU!



BECAUSE
I REALLY
DO LOVE
YOU, AND
I CAN'T
JUST
FORGET
THAT.



SORRY,
BUT...

...I TAKE
BACK WHAT
I SAID ABOUT
FORGETTING
ANY OF THAT
STUFF EVER
HAPPENED.



AND I
DON'T
WANT
YOU TO
FORGET IT,
EITHER.



...UH-

OKAY.



ONE
DAY...

YOU
ALWAYS
SPRING
THIS
STUFF
ON ME,
THAT'S
WHY.

...WHY
DO YOU
ALWAYS
SOUND SO
STUPID,
ANYWAY...

Haah

WHADJA
SAY?!

NO,
IT'S 'CUZ
YOU'RE
ALWAYS
LIKE,
"DURR,"
ALL THE
TIME,
THAT'S
WHY.

I'M GOING
TO MAKE
YOU REGRET
SAYING
"I'M SORRY"
TO ME
LIKE THAT.

SO
THERE.
JUST
WAIT.



*I'm not the
one who lost
my wallet
today, okay?
So whos
like, "durr,"
around
here?!*

*That's
not
what?!*

*Urgh!
well,
that's
not...*

I LOVE
WHAT I
LOVE.



GOT A
PROBLEM
WITH
THAT?

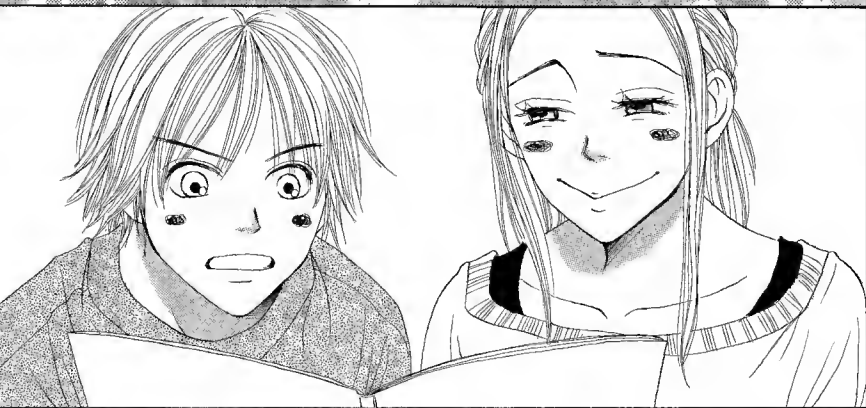




CHAPTER 18



I WENT ALL
THE WAY TO
HOKKAIDO
JUST TO
GET JILTED.
WELL, IT WAS
OUR CLASS
TRIP. BUT
THAT'S WHAT
IT FELT LIKE.



AND NOW,
WE'RE
BACK TO
THE WAY
WE WERE
BEFORE.

THANKS
A LOT,
MRS.
BOZU!!

How
bout
taking it
length-
wise?!

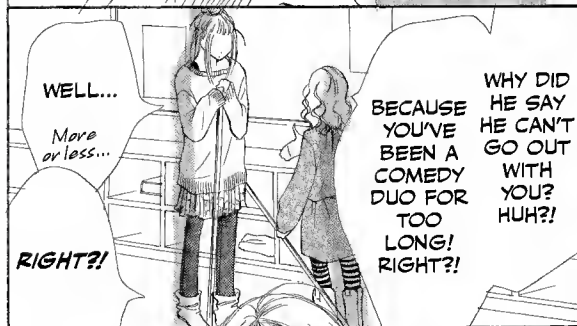
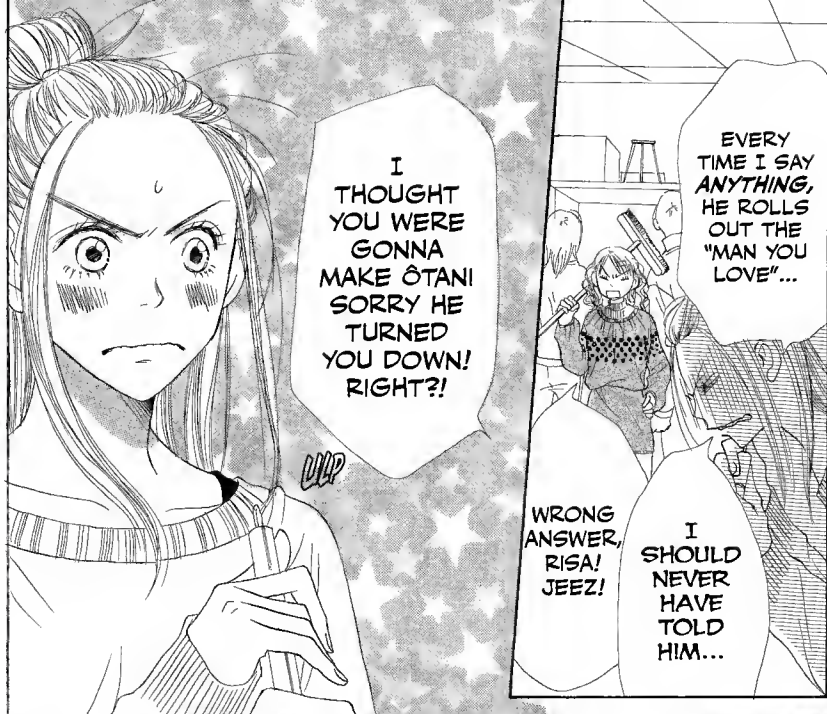
SEE?!
YOU LOOK
SO DORKY!

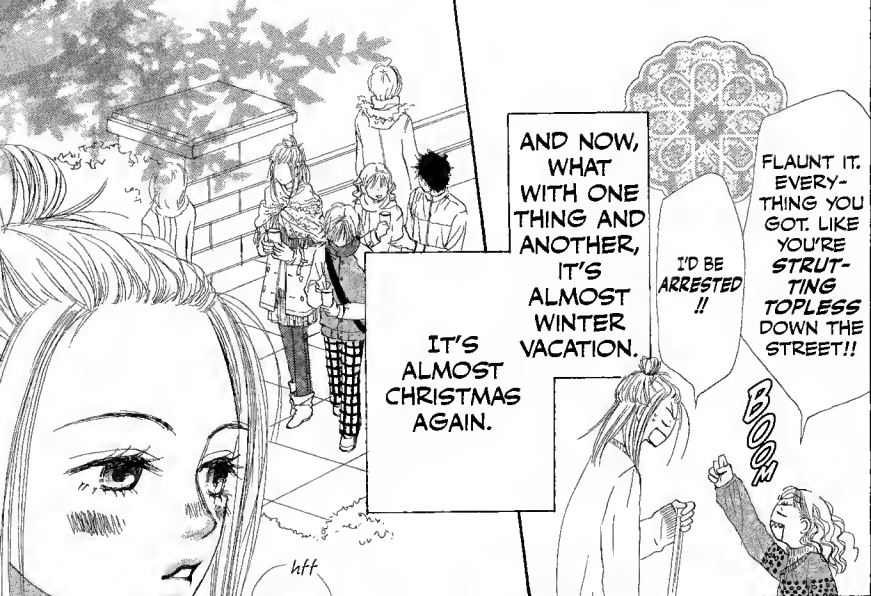
I'M
TOTALLY
CUT
OFF!!

WHAT
THE
HECK
IS
THIS?!









AND NOW,
WHAT
WITH ONE
THING AND
ANOTHER,
IT'S
ALMOST
WINTER
VACATION.

IT'S
ALMOST
CHRISTMAS
AGAIN.

I'D BE
ARRESTED
!!

FLAUNT IT.
EVERY-
THING YOU
GOT. LIKE
YOU'RE
STRUT-
TING
TOPLESS
DOWN THE
STREET!!

BOON



BOY,
A YEAR
SURE
GOES BY
FAST...



...LAST
CHRIST-
MAS, HE
BLEW
OFF
SEEING
HIS OLD
GIRL-
FRIEND...

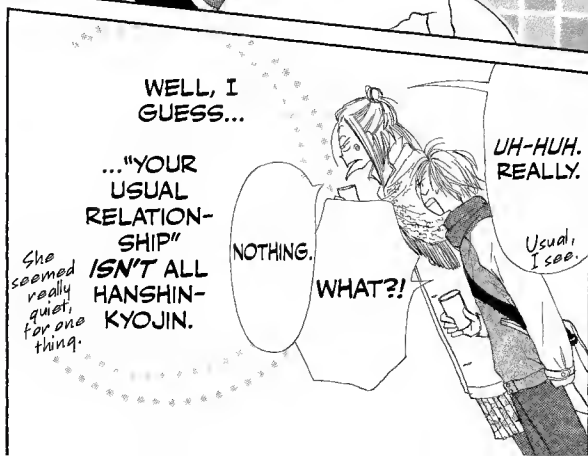
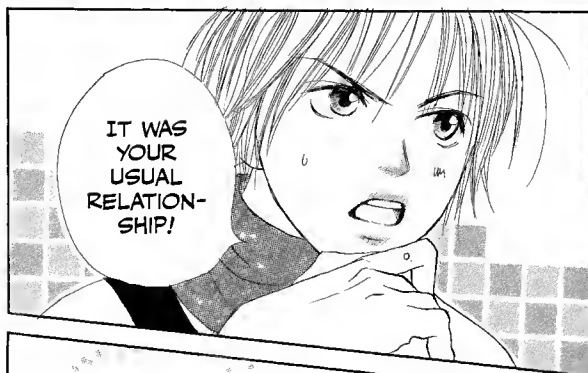
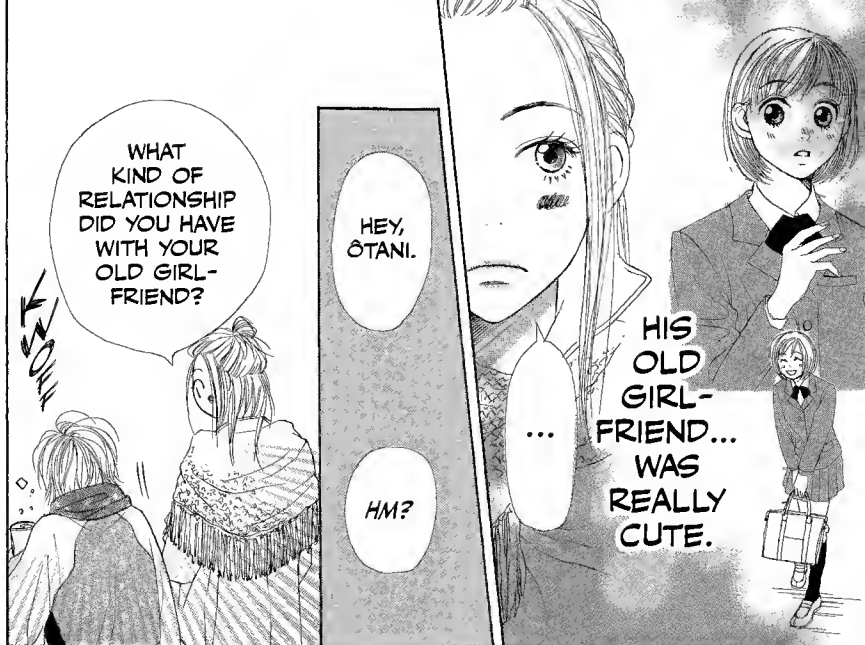
...AND
CAME
LOOKING
FOR ME
DOWN-
TOWN.



COME
TO
THINK
OF IT...



YOU
SOUND
LIKE MY
MOM.



WONDER
WHAT
I NEED
TO DO...

...TO
BECOME
THE GIRL
ÔTANI'S
IN LOVE
WITH.

...THE
GIRL
ÔTANI
WAS IN
LOVE
WITH.

THAT
GIRL
MAYU,
HIS
OLD
GIRL-
FRIEND...

H
m
m
m

YIKES

ARE YOU
KNITTING
SOME-
THING FOR
SUZUKI-
KUN
AGAIN?

YEAH. A
SWEATER,
IF I
CAN...

HEY, NO
BIGGIE.
DON'T
WORRY
ABOUT
ME.

UH,
UMM!

ALL I
NEED TO
GET NOW IS
MY DARLIN'S
CHRISTMAS
PRESENT.

YOU
SURE
BOUGHT
A LOT OF
STUFF
TODAY.

SO
LET'S GO
LOOK FOR
SOME-
THING
LATER.



BECAUSE
I REALLY
DO LOVE
YOU.

AND I
DON'T
WANT
YOU TO
FORGET
THAT.



AND I
COULD
NEVER
SAY ANY-
THING THAT
EMBAR-
RASSING,
ANYWAY!!

HE
DOESN'T
WANT TO
GO OUT
WITH ME,
REMEM-
BER?!

BUT RISA,
HE ALREADY
KNOWS YOU'RE
IN LOVE WITH
HIM. THAT'S
ABOUT AS
EMBARRASSING
AS IT GETS.



SO ASK
ÔTANI OUT.
JUST ASK
HIM OUT.

NO.

SAY
YOU WANT
TO SPEND
CHRISTMAS
WITH HIM.
♡

And I
don't care.

YEAH,
RISA!



WE ALL
FEEL
EMBAR-
RASSING,
AND
WE ALL
SURVIVE!

IT'S
OKAY,
RISA.
LOVE IS
EMBAR-
RASSING.
FOR EVERY-
BODY.



SAID
WHAT?

DON'T
EVEN
ASK
ME!!

I CAN'T
BELIEVE I
SAID THAT
TO HIM!!

ARGH!!
I ALMOST
DIED OF
EMBAR-
RASSMENT
JUST
REMEM-
BERING!!



OMIGOD.
WISH I
HADN'T
REMEM-
BERED
THAT.

PROOF!



NO WAY,
REALLY?
SCARY!

SEE HIM?
THAT'S
NAKAO,
THE
TOUGHEST
GUY ON
CAMPUS.

HE TOOK
ON TWENTY
GUYS FROM
ANOTHER
SCHOOL BY
HIMSELF AND
SENT THEM
ALL TO THE
HOSPITAL!

SO
HOW DID
YOU AND
NAKAO GET
TOGETHER,
ANYWAY?

WHO,
US?

OKAY, THAT
SETTLES IT.
STARTIN'
TODAY
YOUR NAME
IS "MILK."

*You work
that damn
quick.*

YOU
SURE
LIKE
MILK,
DONCHA,
KITTY.

I CAN'T
TAKE YOU
HOME 'CUZ
PETS AIN'T
ALLOWED
IN OUR
BUILDING

SORRY,
KITTY.

SO I
SLIPPED
A LOVE
LETTER
INTO HIS
LOCKER...

ENOUGH
ALREADY.

AND THEN
ONE DAY,
WHEN I
WAS BEING
HARASSED
BY THIS GANG,
TOUGH GUY
NAKAO...

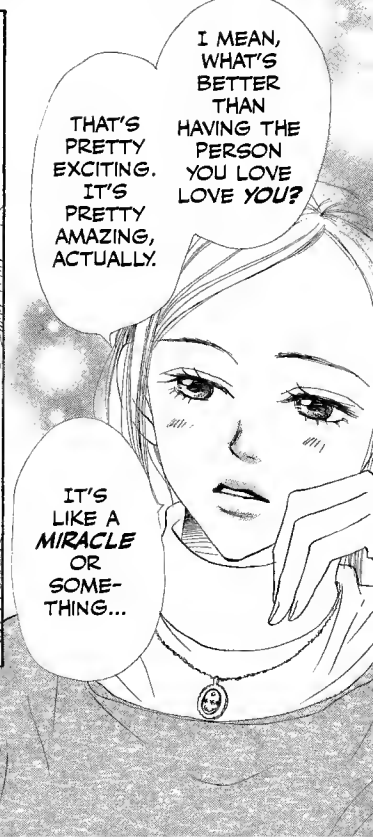
Now...

ENOUGH,
ALREADY.

THAT
GUY
NAKAO...

...HAS THE
NICEST
SMILE
I'VE EVER
SEEN.





Inner
boobies
...?

I DIDN'T
MEAN
TAKE YOUR
TOP OFF!
I MEANT
FLAUNT
YOUR INNER
BOOBIES!

YOU
IDIOT!!

But,
I can't
take
my top
off...

THAT'S
RIGHT,
RISA!
YOU
STILL
HAVE A
CHANCE!

IT'LL
WORK OUT
FINE, RISA!
IT'S NOT
LIKE HE
SAID THERE
WAS NO
WAY!

YEAH!
STRUT
YOUR
STUFF
AND SHOW
HIM THE
BEAUTIFUL
BOOBS
WITHIN!

Keep
your
voice
down,
Nobu

HECK,
YEAH! ALL
YOU HAVE
TO DO
IS TRY A
LITTLE,
AND ÔTANI'S
YOUR
BOY TOY!

...Pretty
...?

NOBU'S
RIGHT,
RISA!
YOU
ARE SO
PRETTY!

YOU GOT
WHAT IT
TAKES,
GIRL! NOW
WORK IT!

MIRACLES
HAPPEN!!

YOU
CAN
DO
IT!

YOU'RE
TALL AND
BEAUTIFUL,
LIKE A
MODEL,
OKAY?!

But
I'm this
jumbo-
gal...

...HAPPEN.

MIRACLES...

NOW
YOU
GO,
GIRL!

THAT'S
THE
SPIRIT,
RISA!

THANKS,
YOU
GUYS.
I FEEL
BETTER
NOW...

...YEAH...

YOU'RE
RIGHT...

FIRST
OF ALL,
BUY HIM
A CHRIST-
MAS
PRESENT!!

But
saying she
looks like
a model
was really
over the
top.

Oh,
really?

IF HE'S
SAYING HE
DOESN'T
SEE ME AS
A GIRL...

You gotta
overdo it
with Risa,
like, really
lay it on
thick.

Oh,
really?

CHRISTMAS,
HERE I
COME!!

OKAY!
YEAH!
I'M GONNA
GO
FOR IT!

IT
CAN
HAPPEN...
THAT
ÔTANI
COULD
FALL
IN
LOVE
WITH
ME.

It's been months since I visited the gym where I signed up. Well, let's face it, why would a lazy homebody like me leave the house to go work out?

It was never going to happen... But there's a class called "hip hop dancing," and since I love hip hop, I'm hoping to take it someday. I was hopeless at aerobics, though... The thing about aerobics is, it's not physically tiring so much as psychologically draining. Or emotionally scarring.

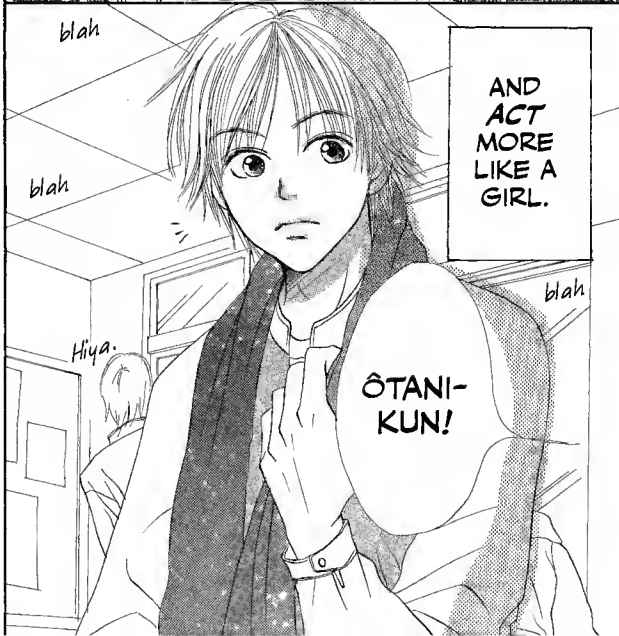
The humiliation of turning the opposite way from everyone else, or the shame when you're facing forward and everyone else is facing backward and your eyes meet is too, too great for words. How does everybody manage to remember the routines?!

I have great respect for Morning Musume. They are amazing! I mean, they all have their dance routines down!!

SO OKAY, THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO ABOUT MY HEIGHT...

...THEN I'M GOING TO GET SERIOUSLY GIRLISH AROUND HIM.

...BUT I CAN AT LEAST CHANGE MY ATTITUDE...



AND ACT MORE LIKE A GIRL.

ÔTANI-KUN!





OH,
A PARTY
WITH THE
GUYS FROM
MY MIDDLE
SCHOOL
BASKETBALL
TEAM.

...SO
WHAT'RE
YOU
DOING
FOR
CHRISTMAS?

HM?

OH, YEAH.
RIGHT.
I CAN'T
BELIEVE
YOU
REMEMBER
THAT.

...WHAT
YOUR OLD
GIRLFRIEND
ASKED
YOU TO
LAST YEAR,
AND YOU
COULDN'T
GO?

ISN'T
THAT...

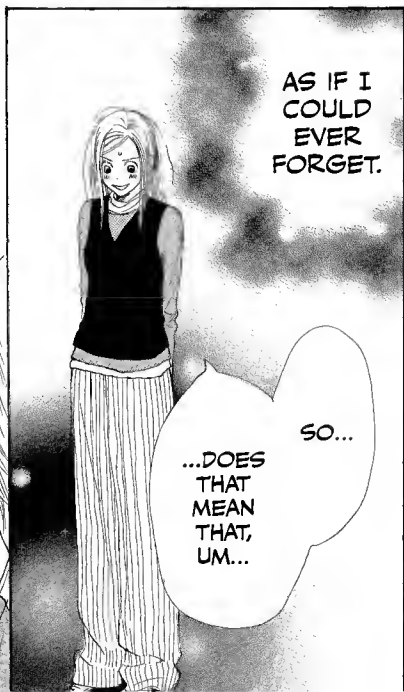
ISN'T
THAT...



OH... I
DON'T
KNOW.

SHE'LL
BE
THERE
TOO?

I GUESS
SO,
PROBABLY.
SHE
WAS OUR
MANAGER,
AFTER
ALL.



AS IF I
COULD
EVER
FORGET.

SO...

...DOES
THAT
MEAN
THAT,
UM...



OH...
NOTHING
AT
ALL...

YOU
WANNA
SAY
SOME-
THING?
HUH?
WHAT'S
WITH
THAT
FACE?
YOU'RE
PISSING
ME OFF!



...LISTEN
TO ME.

...



OH...
REALLY...



...

I
DON'T
KNOW.



OOH!
WISH I
COULD
SAY THAT
SOME-
DAY!

"THERE'S
NOTHING
GOING ON
BETWEEN
THE TWO
OF US."

HOW
ELSE AM I
SUPPOSED
TO SAY
IT?!



THE
"TWO
OF
US"?!

THERE IS
NOTHING
GOING ON
BETWEEN
THE TWO
OF US
ANYMORE,
OKAY?

THAT
SOUNDS
NICE
AND
COZY!

I
KNOW
THAT.

...WE WERE
SEEING AN
UMIBÔZU
SHOW
TOGETHER
THAT'S ALL.

LAST YEAR
HE CAME
LOOKING
FOR ME
DOWNTOWN.

IT WASN'T
BECAUSE I
WAS MORE
IMPORTANT
TO HIM THAN
HIS OLD
GIRLFRIEND.

BUT
THAT WAS
BECAUSE...

...I WAS
REALLY
STOKED.

I
KNOW
THAT,
BUT...



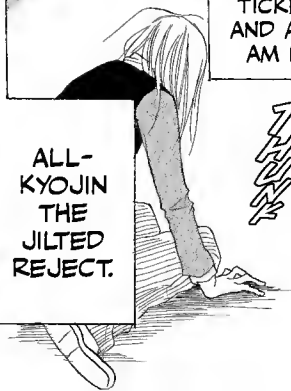
THE "TWO
OF YOU"
GO AHEAD
AND HAVE A
GREAT TIME
TOGETHER
THIS
CHRISTMAS.



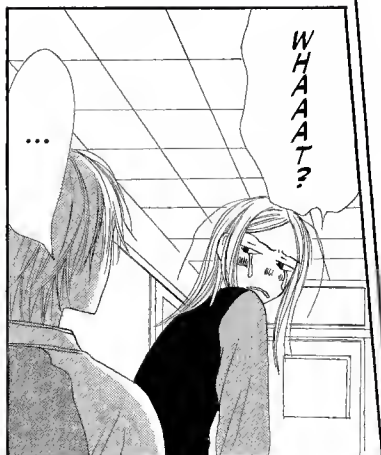
FINE.

ALL-
KYOJIN
THE
JILTED
REJECT.

THIS YEAR,
THOUGH,
LET'S FACE
IT. TAKE
AWAY THE
UMIBÔZU
TICKETS,
AND ALL I
AM IS...

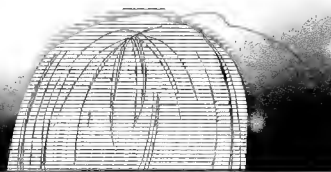


THANK



...THERE
WON'T BE
ANYTHING
ALL-KYOJIN
CAN SAY
ABOUT IT.

AND THEN,
IF YOU
HAVE SUCH
A GREAT
TIME THAT
YOU END UP
GETTING
TOGETHER
AGAIN...



HOW
COME?

I DIDN'T
EVEN GO
TO YOUR
MIDDLE
SCHOOL,
MUCH
LESS PLAY
BASKET-
BALL.

DOESN'T
MATTER.
WE CAN
BRING
ANYBODY
WE WANT.



...BUT...



YOU
WANNA
COME
TOO?

TO THE
CHRISTMAS
PARTY.

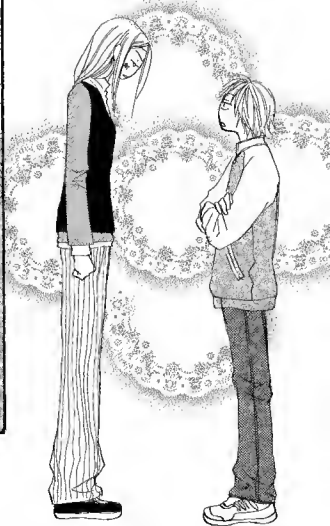


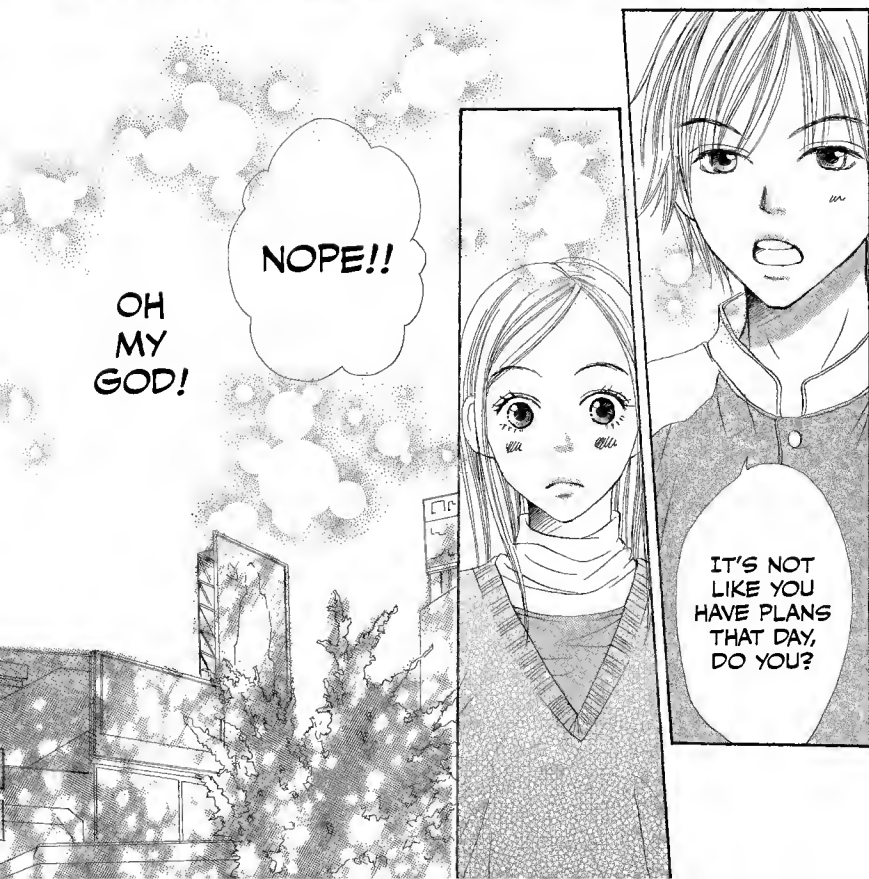
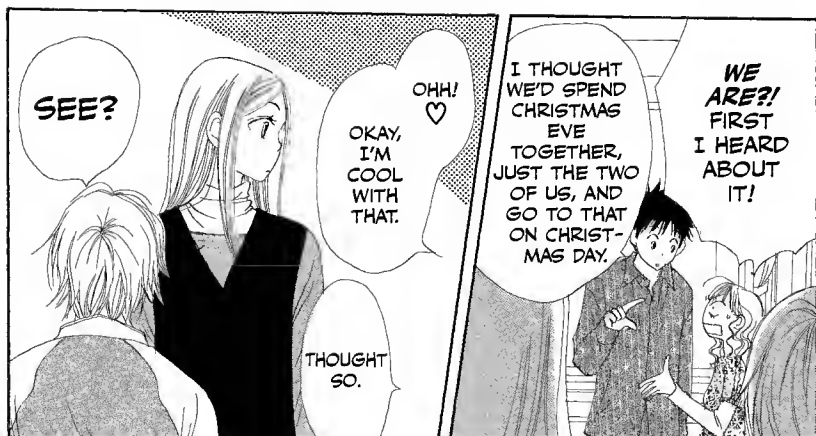
SO THE
MORE
PEOPLE
COME,
THE
BETTER.

BUT IT'S
NOT A
PARTY,
REALLY. WE
JUST RENT
A GYM AND
SHOOT
SOME
HOOPS
IS ALL.

NAKAO
AND
NOBU
ARE
GONNA
BE
THERE
TOO.

THEY
ARE?!





HM?

RISA.
SO HEY!

We aren't
allowed to eat
in the gym.

There's
gonna
be cake.

I DON'T
CARE
IF HIS
EX-GIRL-
FRIEND
IS HERE.
BRING
HER ON!

OHKAAAY!
I'VE
COME
THIS
FAR.

BOOBS!

LET'S
WHIP
OUT
THOSE
BOOBS
AND GO
FOR IT!

CHRIST-
MAS,
HERE
WE
COME!

BOOBS!!

I AM
SERIOUSLY
GOING TO
WHIP OUT
MY INNER
BOOBS AND
MAKE ÔTANI
FALL FOR
ME, HARD!!

MERRY
CHRISTMAS,
DUDES!



GUNNY

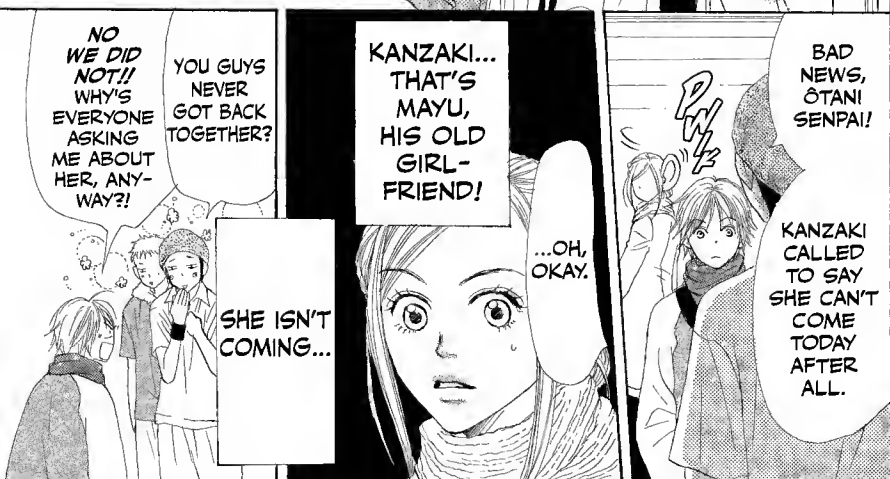
You haven't grown a bit since middle school, Otani Senpai.

Shut up. x3

WONDER IF HIS OLD GIRL-FRIEND'S ALREADY HERE...

MERRY CHRISTMAS, YOU GUYS!

HEY, IT'S OTANI SENPAI AND NAKAO SENPAI!



NO WE DID NOT!! WHY'S EVERYONE ASKING ME ABOUT HER, ANYWAY?!

YOU GUYS NEVER GOT BACK TOGETHER?

KANZAKI... THAT'S MAYU, HIS OLD GIRL-FRIEND!

...OH, OKAY.

BAD NEWS, OTANI SENPAI!

KANZAKI CALLED TO SAY SHE CAN'T COME TODAY AFTER ALL.

SHE ISN'T COMING...



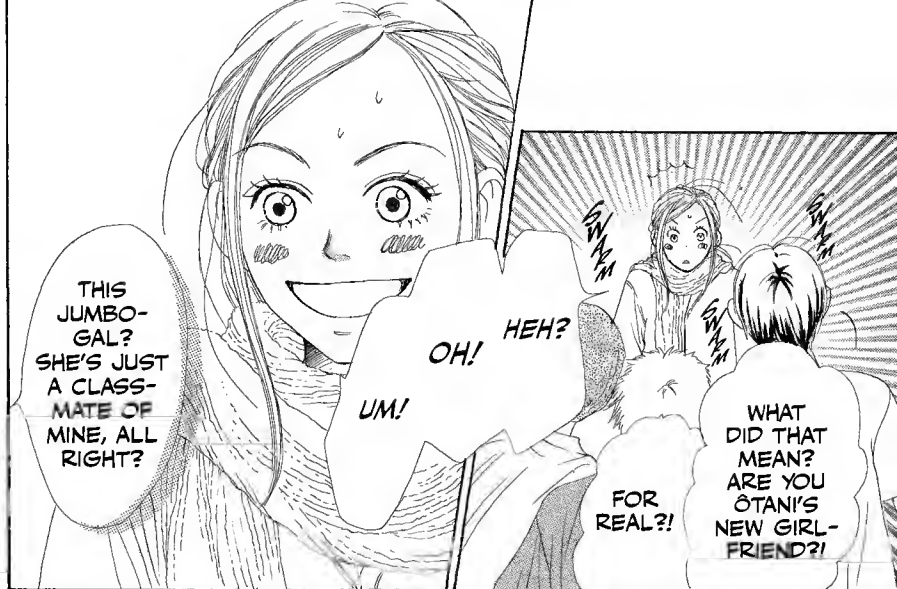
FWOOO

SHE ISN'T COMING...

HUH?

What?

WHICH REMINDS ME! YOU, THERE! DON'T BE SO RELIEVED!!



THIS
JUMBO-
GAL?
SHE'S JUST
A CLASS-
MATE OF
MINE, ALL
RIGHT?

OH! HEH?

UM!

FOR
REAL?!

WHAT
DID THAT
MEAN?
ARE YOU
OTANI'S
NEW GIRL-
FRIEND?!



WHAT
KIND OF
INTRO-
DUCTION
WAS
THAT?!

WHADJA
DO THAT
FOR?!

YOU
INCON-
SIDERATE
SHRIMP!!

THOSE
TWO ARE
PRETTY
FUNNY.

WHAT?! I
CHALLENGE
YOU TO
POINT
OUT ANY
ERRORS
IN WHAT
I SAID!

HA
HA
HA
HA.





BECAUSE
IT'S TAKING
PLACE ON
CHRISTMAS?

WHY
EXACTLY
IS THIS
GATHERING
CALLED A
CHRISTMAS
PARTY IN
THE FIRST
PLACE?

WELL,
I MEAN,
MY GOSH...

I DON'T
SEE ANY
BOOBS!!
ALL I SEE
IS YOUR
BUTT!!

RISA!!

UH-
HUH...

NEVER
PLAYED
BASKET-
BALL
BEFORE.

*Sweaty,
just isn't
you, baby.*

DIDN'T
BRING
GYM
SHOES.

*I need a
break.*

YOU GUYS
OUGHTA
PLAY TOO,
NOBU-
CHAN.



BOY WAS
I IN BIG
TROUBLE!!

LUCKY
FOR ME
SHE
ISN'T
HERE!

*'Cuz he
didn't come
last
year.*

BIG
DEAL.
THE
GUY SHE
SHOULD
BE WITH
IS ÔTANI,
RIGHT?
SO-

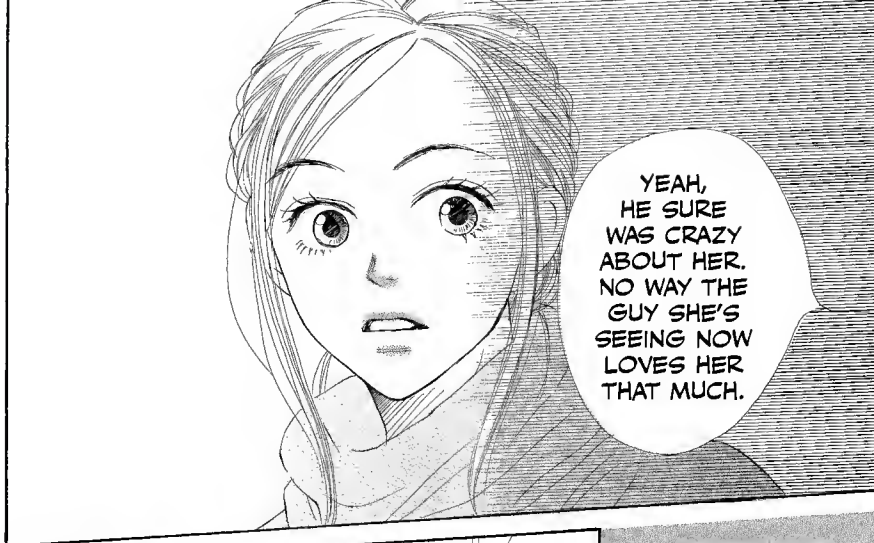
DRAG, MAN.
I WAS
HOPING WE
COULD GET
HER BACK
TOGETHER
WITH ÔTANI
THIS TIME.

YEAH,
BUT I
THOUGHT
SHE HAS
A BOY-
FRIEND.
DOESN'T
SHE?

I
DON'T
KNOW.
SHE
JUST
SAID
SOME-
THING
CAME
UP.

SO HOW
COME
KANZAKI
COULDN'T
COME
TODAY?





YEAH,
HE SURE
WAS CRAZY
ABOUT HER.
NO WAY THE
GUY SHE'S
SEEING NOW
LOVES HER
THAT MUCH.



I DIDN'T
THINK RISA
WOULD
WANT TO
KNOW,
OKAY?

YOU
NEVER
TOLD
ME
THAT!

WHAT
?



...

T-T-T

REMEMBER
AFTER THEY
BROKE UP?
DUDE WAS
LIKE A
DEAD MAN.



HEY...

WHAT WERE
OTANI AND
KANZAKI-SAN
ALWAYS LIKE
TOGETHER?

U-UH,
RISA!

HUH?

TOTAL
ZOMBIE.
BOY,
WAS HE
MESSED
UP BIG-
TIME.

BY THE
TIME WE
LET THEM
OUT, THEY
WERE LIKE,
A COUPLE.
PLAN
WORKED!

!

...BY
LOCKING
HIM UP WITH
HER IN THE
STORAGE
CLOSET.

THAT'S
WHY WE
DECIDED
TO HELP
HIM OUT...

YEAH, LIKE,
BEFORE
THEY
STARTED
GOING OUT?
HE'D BE SO
NERVOUS
AROUND HER,
HE COULDN'T
EVEN TALK.

I DON'T
KNOW, IT
WAS LIKE...
WELL, ANY-
BODY COULD
TELL THAT
ÔTANI WAS
TOTALLY NUTS
ABOUT HER.

WHAT
WERE
THEY
LIKE
...?

WHAT
HAPPENED
IN THERE?!

WHAT'RE
YOU
DOING?

YEAH,
WHAT
DID
THEY DO
THERE
IN THE
DARK?

GEE, I
WONDER
WHAT
HAPPENED
IN THERE.

WHAT
?

WHAT
?



AND
THAT'S
HOW HE
GETS
AROUND
SOME-
ONE HE
REALLY
LIKES.

HE'D
BE SO
NERVOUS,
HE
COULDN'T
EVEN
TALK.



SO
ÔTANI
WAS
TOTALLY
IN LOVE
WITH
HER.

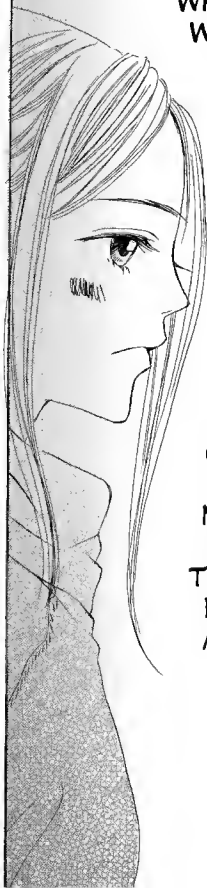
HE
SURE
WAS
CRAZY
ABOUT
HER.

SO IT'S
PRETTY
OBVIOUS
HE DOESN'T
LIKE ME
AT ALL.
NOT EVEN
A *LITTLE*.

THAT'S
THE
TOTAL
OPPOSITE
OF THE
WAY HE
IS WITH
HER.



HE TALKS
NONSTOP
WHEN HE'S
WITH ME.



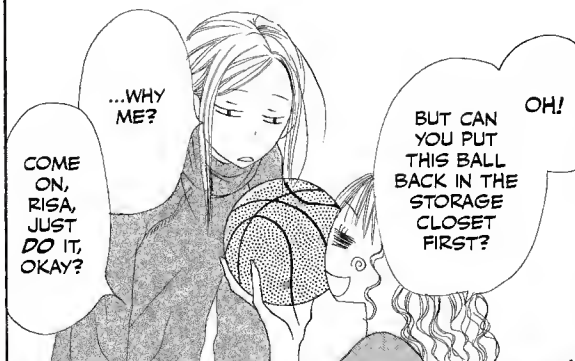
HE
CALLS
ME
NAMES
AND
THROWS
BALLS
AT ME.



BW







COME ON, RISA, JUST DO IT, OKAY?

...WHY ME?

BUT CAN YOU PUT THIS BALL BACK IN THE STORAGE CLOSET FIRST?

OH!

THEY'RE SAYING WE HAVE TO GO OUTSIDE TO EAT, 'CUZ WE'LL GET IN TROUBLE IF WE EAT IN HERE.

HEY, RISA.

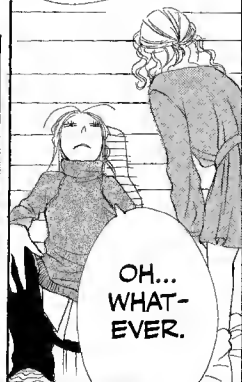
Let's go.



THEN I WOULDN'T HAVE HEARD ALL THAT STUFF ABOUT OTANI.

I WISH I HADN'T COME TODAY.

AARGH!



OH... WHAT-EVER.



OKAY...



TOSS IT OVER, WILL YA?



THIS BALL.





YOU WEREN'T
THIS LAID
BACK WHEN
THEY LOCKED
YOU IN HERE
WITH MAYU
THAT TIME,
WERE YOU?

...HEY,
ÔTANI.

...THEY
BETTER
COME
PRETTY
QUICK?

HM?

WHO
TOLD
YOU?!
THEY'RE
DUST!!

I HEARD
THE
WHOLE
STORY
WHILE
YOU WERE
PLAYING
EARLIER.

WHADDA...
WAITA...
WHAT THE...
HOW DO
YOU KNOW
ABOUT...

WHAT
DID
YOU
DO?

YOU...!

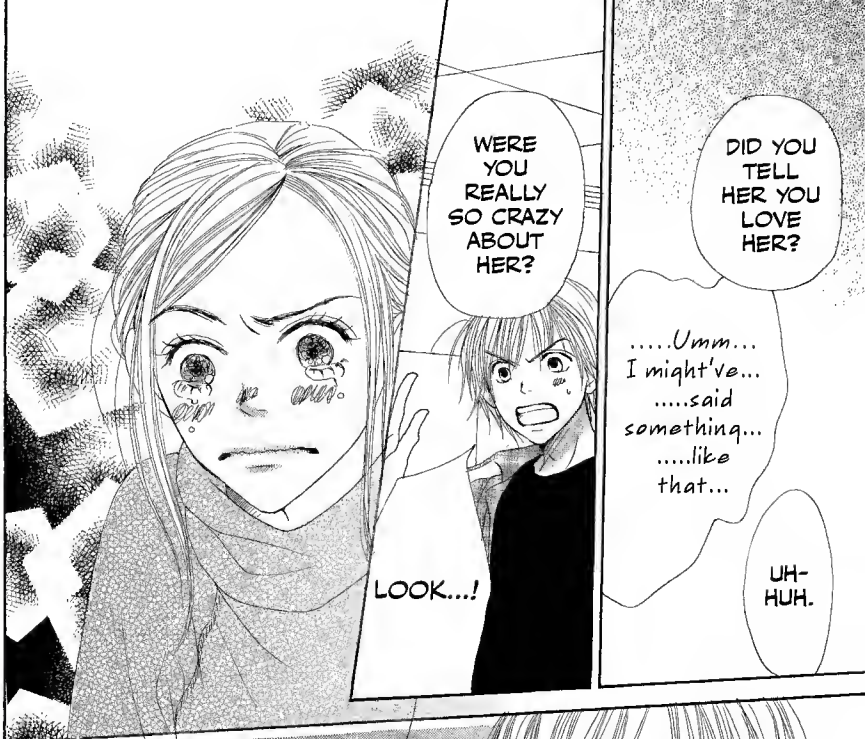
*Even
know
about
that?!*

UH-HUH.
WHAT
ABOUT?
YOU'D BE
SO NERVOUS
AROUND
HER YOU
COULDN'T
TALK,
IS WHAT
I HEARD.

WHAT?!
NOTHING!!
SHUT UP!

WE JUST
TALKED,
OKAY?!

WHAT
DID THE
TWO OF
YOU DO
IN HERE,
IN THE
DARK?



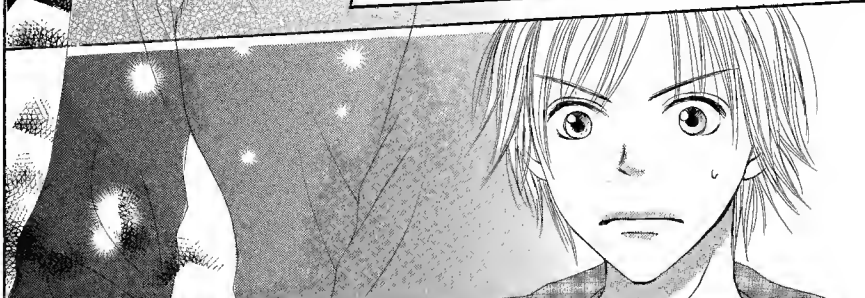
WERE
YOU
REALLY
SO CRAZY
ABOUT
HER?

DID YOU
TELL
HER YOU
LOVE
HER?

.....Umm...
I might've...
.....said
something...
.....like
that...

UH-
HUH.

LOOK....!



I COULD
BE LOCKED
IN HERE
WITH
ÔTANI FOR
WEEKS, AND
NOTHING
WOULD
HAPPEN.



THAT
ISN'T
WHAT I
MEANT.

HEY...

I
KNOW
THAT.

THAT'S
ALL
HISTORY,
OKAY?

I
KNOW
THAT
FOR
SURE.
NOW.

I CAN
"WORK IT"
UNTIL THE
COWS COME
HOME, IT
ISN'T GOING
TO HELP

BECAUSE
ÔTANI ISN'T
EVEN THE
SLIGHTEST
BIT IN LOVE
WITH ME.

WELL,
WHO
ELSE
WOULD
IT BE?!
WHY
ELSE
WOULD
I BE
CRYING?!

**I'M
MAKING
YOU
CRY?!**

'CUZ
YOU'RE
MAKING
ME CRY
A LOT
THESE
DAYS!!

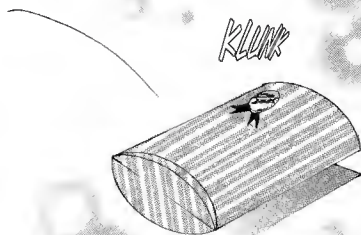
...BOY,
KOIZUMI.

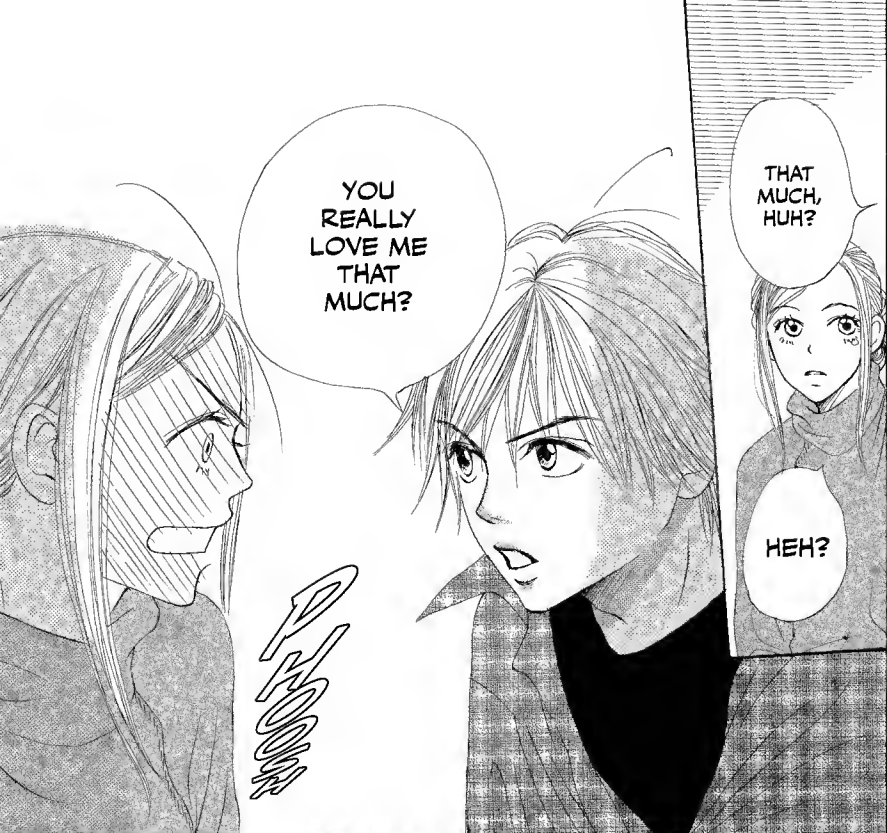
YOU
SURE
CRY
A LOT
THESE
DAYS.

**THIS
STUPID
IDIOT...**

What
do I
do with
him?

OH.
WELL,
YEAH. I
GUESS
YOU'RE
RIGHT.





YOU
REALLY
LOVE ME
THAT
MUCH?

THAT
MUCH,
HUH?

HEH?



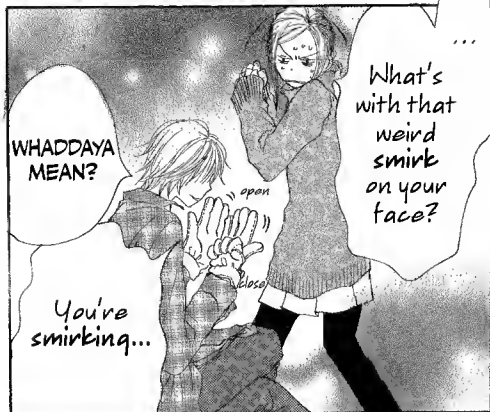
HEY!!
OPEN
UP!!
NOBU!!
GET ME
OUTTA
HERE!!

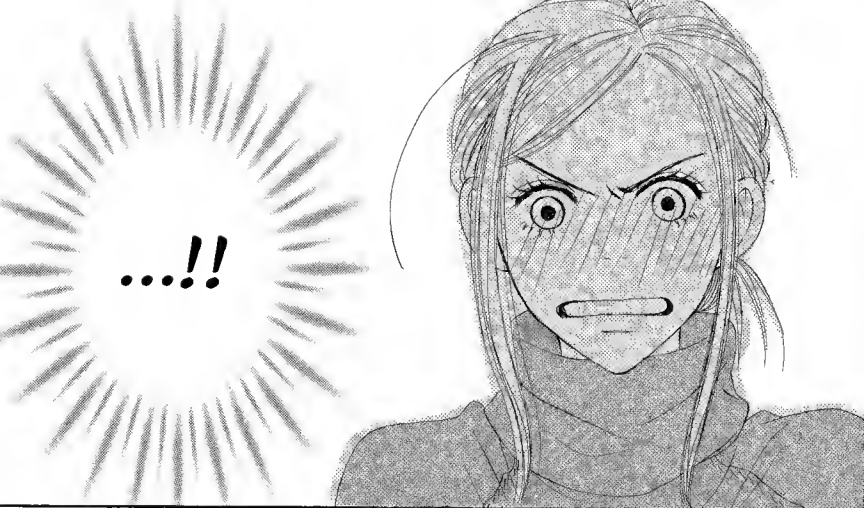
I DON'T
WANNA
HEAR IT!
JUST
DON'T
TALK TO
ME ANY-
MORE,
OKAY?!

MY
GOD!
WHY
DO YOU
KEEP
STAYING
STUFF
LIKE
THAT TO
ME?!

WELL,
I JUST...

HUH.





RISA...?

I heard
banging on
the door...

What
are
you
doing?!

BWO

YOU'RE
FUNNY!
YOU'RE
REALLY
FUNNY.

WHAT'S
THE DEAL,
YOU'RE
SOME
KIND OF
SADIST
OR
SOME-
THING?!

MERRY
CHRISTMAS.
RIGHT.

SHUT
UP!!
JUST
SHUT
UP!!



ISN'T
CHRISTMAS
A TIME FOR
MIRACLES?
WHAT
HAPPENED
TO MINE?



I MEAN,
MY GOSH.
IT'S NOT
FAIR.





CHAPTER 19



ARE YOU
SERIOUS?!

I JUST
DIED
AND
WENT TO
HEAVEN!!

I DID IT!!
I GOT
HIM!! I
GOT CAIN
TO FALL
FOR ME!!

UGH!!
THAT
WAS SO
CHEESY!!



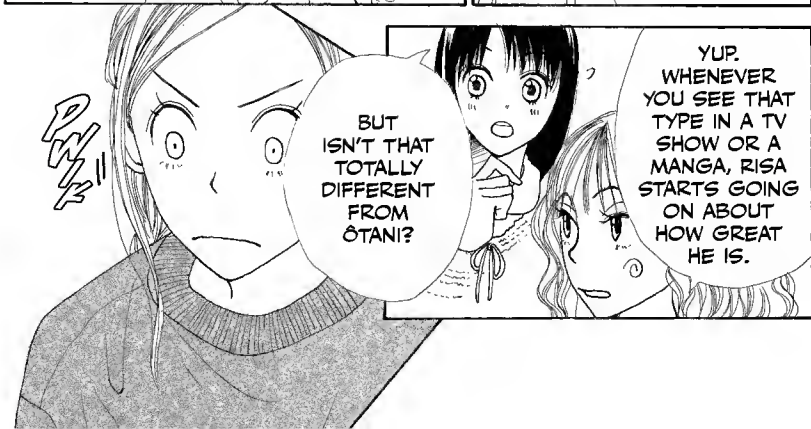
THAT'S
THE
KIND OF
GUY I
LOVE.

TALL AND
SLENDER,
COOL AND
RELAXED,
GORGEOUS
AND
ROMANTIC...
♡

WAIT
A SEC.
IS THAT
THE KIND
OF GUY
YOU
LIKE,
RISA?

YUCK,
NO!!
CORN-
BALLS
LIKE
THAT?!
GROSS!!

WOULDN'T IT
BE GREAT
IF GUYS LIKE
THAT REALLY
EXISTED?



BUT
ISN'T THAT
TOTALLY
DIFFERENT
FROM
OTANI?

YUP.
WHENEVER
YOU SEE THAT
TYPE IN A TV
SHOW OR A
MANGA, RISA
STARTS GOING
ON ABOUT
HOW GREAT
HE IS.

Guys
that'll...
laugh at a
maiden's
tender
feelings
like that...

Actually,
guys like
Otani
aren't
my type
at all...

...yes,
it is...

I
THINK
YOU'RE
FUNNY.

THAT'S
WHAT
I SAY
EVERY
TIME HE
MAKES
ME MAD.

I AM
THROUGH
WITH
THAT
JERK!

Oh.
IT'S
ABOUT
TIME WE
GOT
GOING,
YOU
GUYS.

Oh,
yeah.

ARRGH!!
I WISH
YOU HADN'T
REMINDED
ME, 'CUZ
I'M GETTING
REALLY,
REALLY
MAD
AGAIN!!

THAT'S
WHAT
I THINK
WHEN I'M
FEELING
REALLY
DOWN.

IT'S
HOPE-
LESS.
HE'S
NEVER
GOING
TO FALL
FOR ME.

ANYBODY
COULD
TELL THAT
OTANI WAS
TOTALLY
NUTS
ABOUT HER.



NEW
YEAR'S
EVE SURE
BRINGS
THE
CROWDS
OUT.

I
REALLY
LOVE
THIS
GUY.

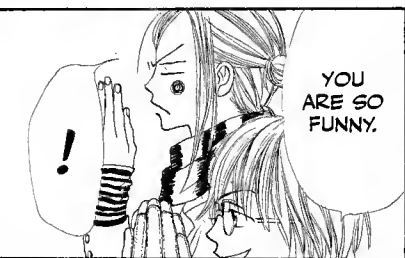
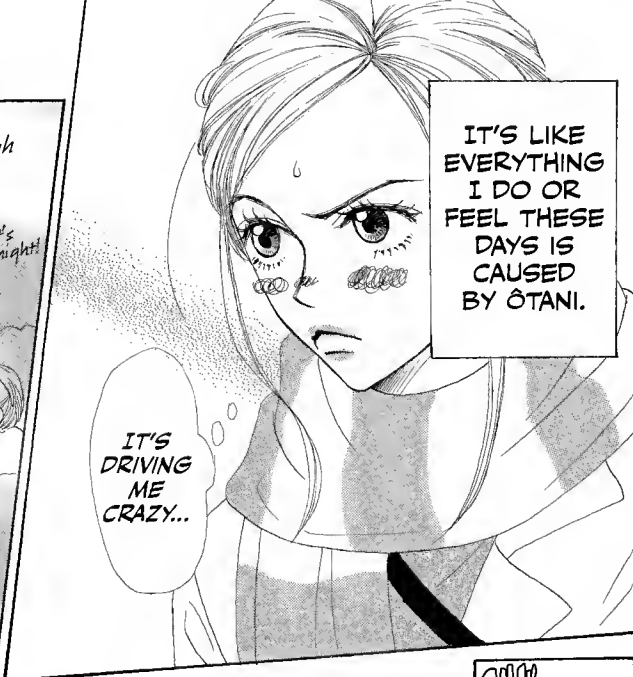
THAT'S
WHAT
I FEEL
WHEN HE
LOOKS
LIKE THAT.

WHAT?

A
LITTLE
HEART
ATTACK...

HUH?

KA-
THUNK





...

THANKS
A LOT.
NOW
PEOPLE'RE
LAUGHING
AT US.



heh
heh

tee
hee

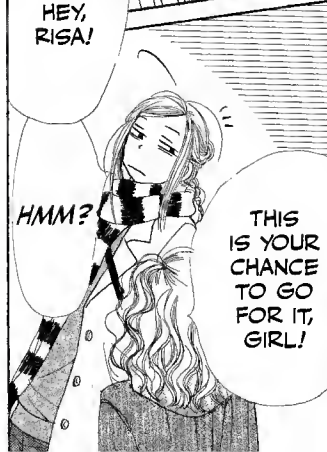
OWW!
WILL
YOU
CUT
THAT
OUT?!
OW!

THAT
IRRITATING
SMILE OF
YOURS IS
REALLY
GETTING
ON MY
NERVES!!



YEAH.

SO YOU
WANNA
HEAD
HOME
SOON?



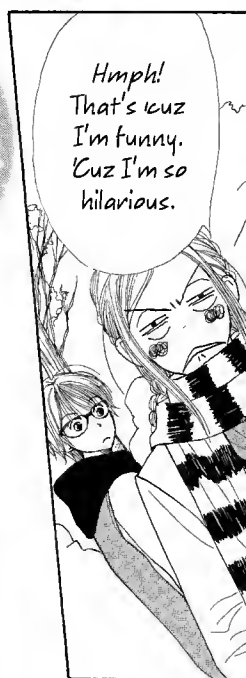
RISA!
HEY,
RISA!

HMM?

THIS
IS YOUR
CHANCE
TO GO
FOR IT,
GIRL!



FINE.
SEE
IF I
CARE.



Hmph!
That's 'cuz
I'm funny.
'Cuz I'm so
hilarious.

WELL, A
MAIDEN'S
MOOD
GOES
UP AND
DOWN.

*And
right now
it's down.*

W H A A A A T ?!

OMIGOD,
RISA!
YOU ARE
SO NOT
INTO IT!!

THAT IS A
SHOCKING
THING FOR
A YOUNG
LADY TO
SUGGEST.

GO
FOR
WHAT?

HERE'S
YOUR
CHANCE
TO PARADE
THOSE
BOOBS
YOU KEPT
COVERED AT
CHRISTMAS!!

OH-HH
NOTHIN-
NNG.

WHAT
WERE YOU
TALKING
ABOUT
JUST
NOW?

*With
Nobu.*

BEFORE THEY
STARTED
GOING OUT,
HE'D BE SO
NERVOUS
AROUND HER,
HE COULDN'T
EVEN TALK.

ALL
NIGHT?!

RISA!
YOU'RE
ALREADY
WITH
HIM, SO
STAY
WITH
HIM ALL
NIGHT!

THAT IS A
SHOCKING
THING FOR
A YOUNG
LADY TO
SUGGEST!!

UH-HUH.
FINE.

IT'S
NEVER
GOING TO
HAPPEN.
NOT TO THIS
COMEDIENNE.

JUST
ONCE I'D
LIKE TO
SEE HIM
TONGUE-
TIED WITH
NERVOUS-
NESS
AROUND
ME.

NOBU-
CHAN!
LET'S
GO
HOME!





Thank you for
all the letters
and emails!
I read every single
one I get. Sorry
I can't answer
them, though!!



Gosh, you all
draw so well...
You blew me away.



This ↑ by the way is a
self-portrait I drew in
sixth grade. I found it
in our yearbook.

...what's with that
ribbon-tied bandana?!
And that weird
pattern on the
shirt?! △°▽°

I've never worn
glasses...so I guess
those are supposed
to be sunglasses.
That scarf around the
waist bothers me, too.
Who'd ever wear
that...?

And what's this
person looking at,
anyway...?

I LOVE
HANGING
OUT WITH
ÔTANI LIKE
THIS, JUST
BEING SILLY
AND HAVING
A GOOD
TIME.

TOTALLY
INTO IT

Fish in Hell
Umibôzu

THERE
MAY BE
NOTHING
ROMANTIC
ABOUT IT...

...BUT
I'M KINDA
STARTING
TO FEEL
LIKE THIS
IS GOOD
ENOUGH
FOR ME.

YOU
IDIOT!!





USE
BEING
FUNNY
TO MAKE
HIM...



WELL,
DON'T
FIGHT IT,
USE IT!!
USE BEING
FUNNY TO
MAKE HIM
FALL FOR
YOU!!

REMEMBER
HOW OTANI
WAS SAYING
THAT, TOO?!



I-I-I
KNOW!
YOU'RE
REALLY
FUNNY!!

I'M
REALLY
FUNNY...?

THERE!!

GOTCHA!
I'M ON
IT!

RIGHT.
HE
THINKS
I'M
FUNNY...

I
THINK
YOU'RE
FUNNY.



blah

HIYA!

blah

I'M GONNA
BE SO
FUNNY HE
WON'T
KNOW WHAT
HIT HIM!



WAAAAAGH,
THERE
IS NO
WAAAAAY!
HOW
TOTALLY
GROSS!

I MEAN,
WHAT
WOULD
ÔTANI AND
ME BEING
ROMANTIC
EVEN BE
LIKE IN
THE FIRST
PLACE?

WHAT CAN
I DO TO
MAKE THINGS
MORE...WELL,
ROMANTIC
BETWEEN US?

YOU
ARE
SO
CUTE.

OOH!
♡



WE'RE
IN BIG
TROUBLE!!

RISA!

SO
WHAT
AM I
SUPPOSED
TO DO,
THEN?

W
H
A
T
?!

HOW
COME?

hfff

hfff

HE RAN INTO HER—
WHAT WAS
HER NAME,
MAYU? WELL,
HE RAN INTO
HER THE
OTHER DAY.

AND HE
HEARD IT
STRAIGHT
FROM THE
HORSE'S
MOUTH.

Hey...

HE
DID?!

HE
DID?!

WAIT A SEC...

NOT THIS TIME, RISA! I SWEAR THIS IS FOR REAL!

LAST TIME WE LISTENED TO NAKAO, HE TURNED OUT TO BE TOTALLY WRONG.

NOT
THIS
TIME,
RISA! I
SWEAR
THIS
IS FOR
REAL!

LAST
TIME WE
LISTENED
TO NAKAO,
HE TURNED
OUT TO BE
TOTALLY
WRONG.

HIS OLD GIRL-FRIEND AND GIANT BABA BROKE UP?!

Not so loud!! SSSSSSH!!

SSSSSH!!

Not
so
loud!!

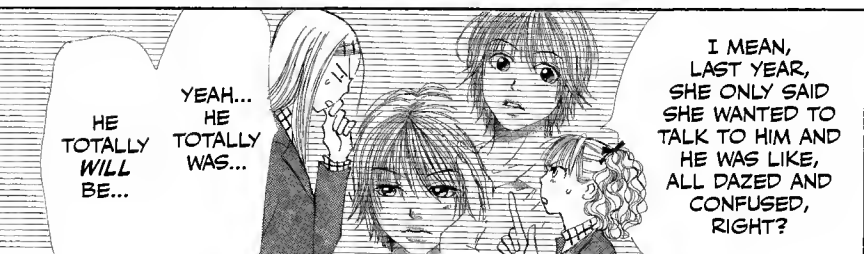
BUT SHE DID SAY THEY BROKE UP AT CHRISTMAS.

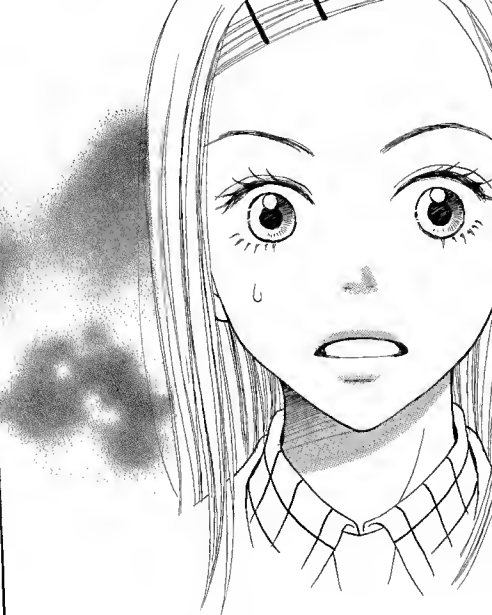
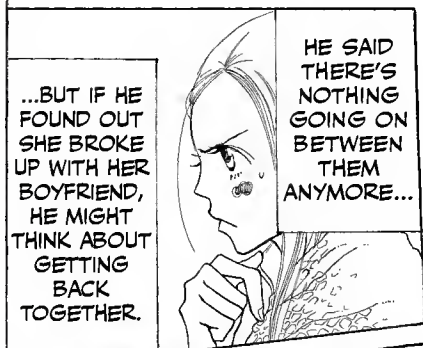
SHE DIDN'T TELL HIM HOW COME OR ANYTHING...

SO THAT'S WHY SHE DIDN'T COME TO THAT GET-TOGETHER AT THE GYM...

IS THAT FOR REAL?

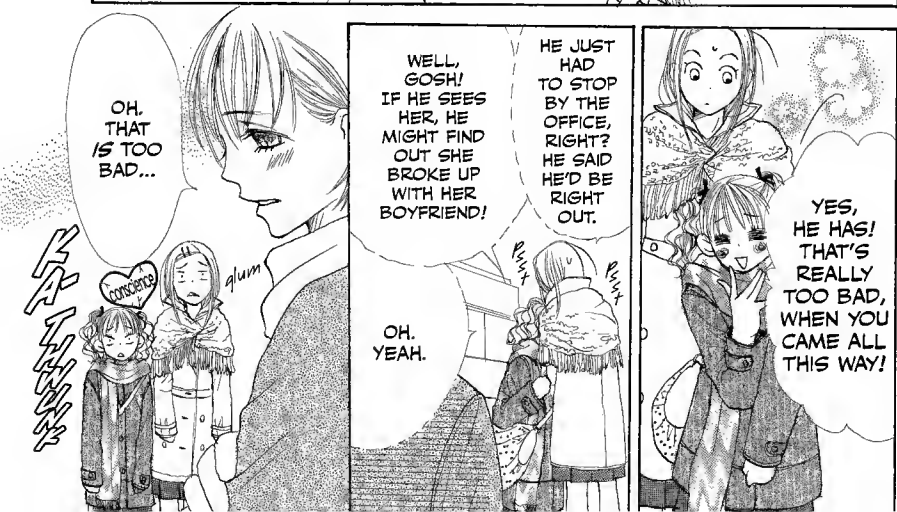
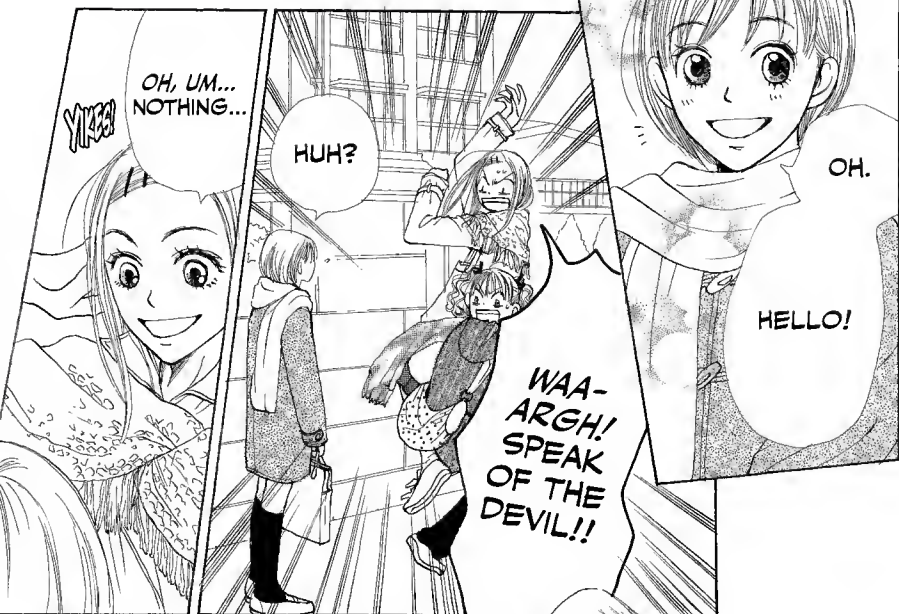
IS
THAT
FOR
REAL?

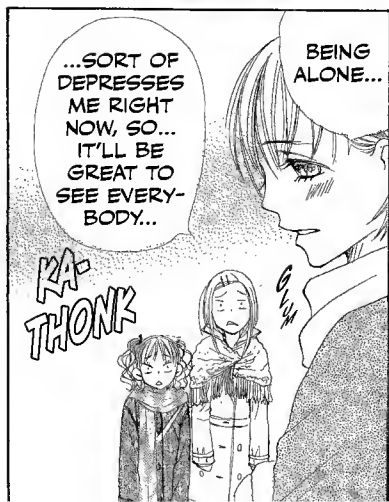
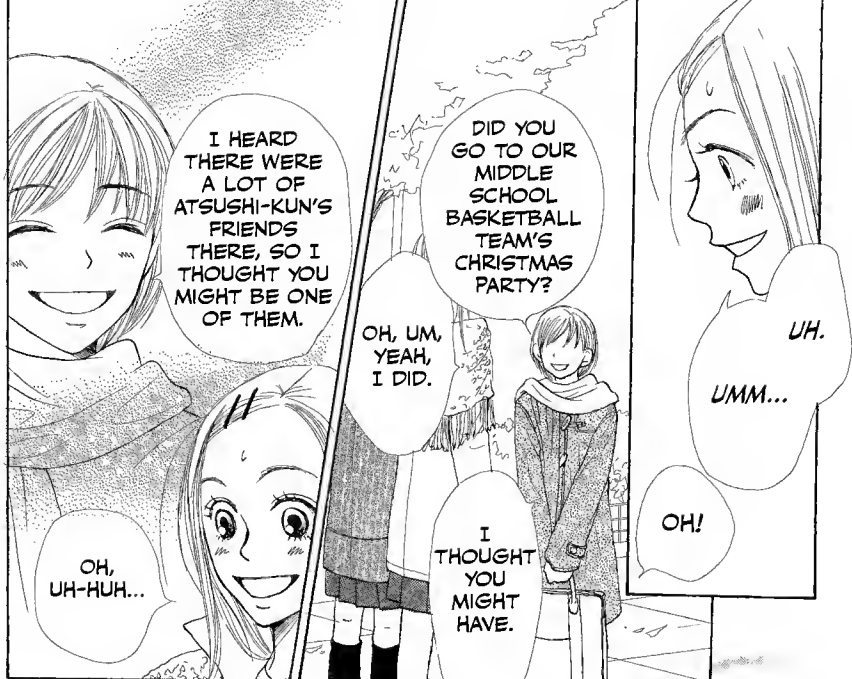


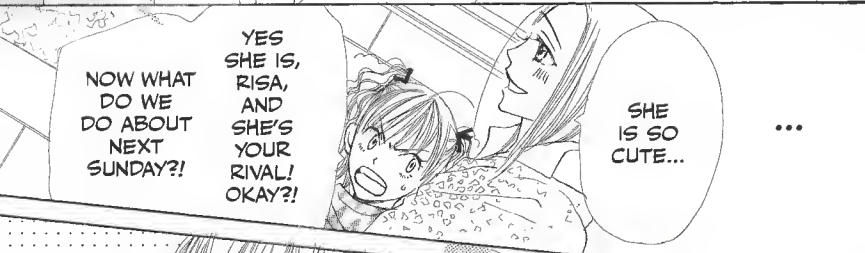
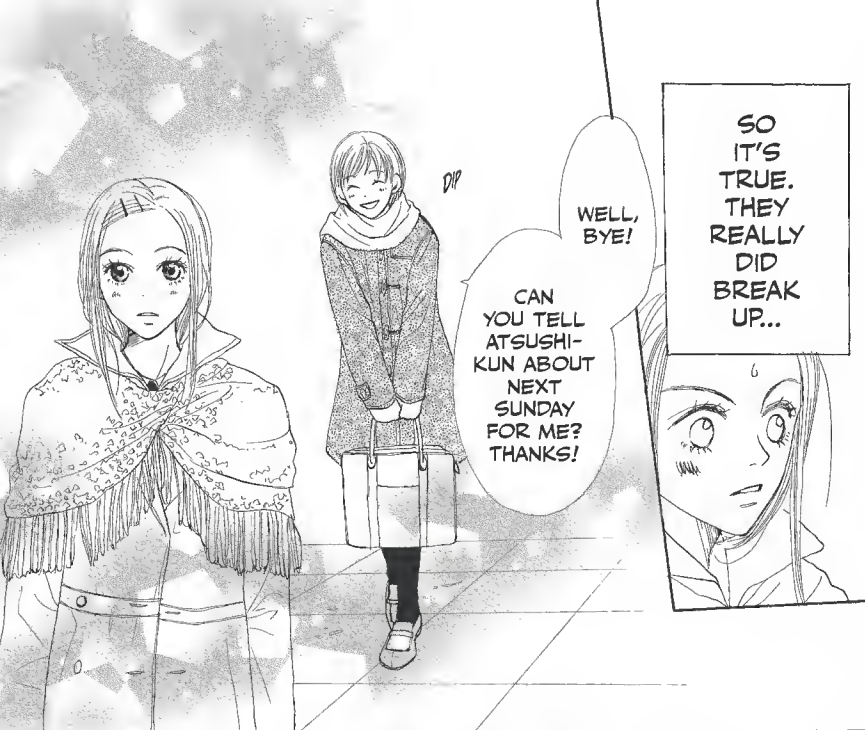


...MY
GOD...





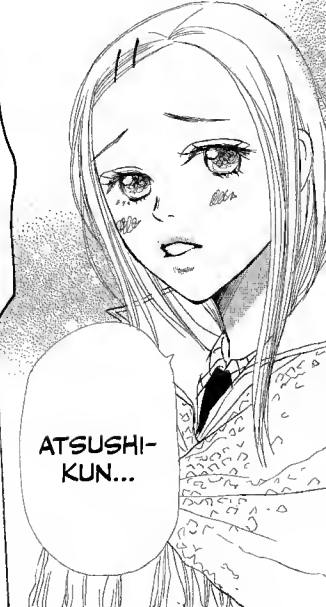




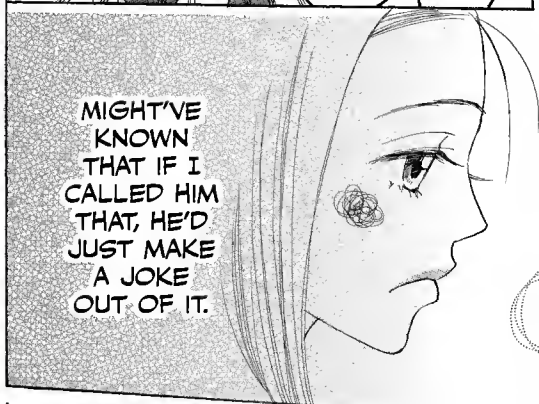


HEY!
THAT'S
REALLY
RUDE!!

GYAARGH!!
HYMMMP!!



ATSUSHI-
KUN...



MIGHT'VE
KNOWN
THAT IF I
CALLED HIM
THAT, HE'D
JUST MAKE
A JOKE
OUT OF IT.



OH,
YEAH.

ONE
OF THE
GUYS
CALLED ME
ABOUT IT
YESTERDAY.

OH,
REALLY?!



TO
TELL YOU
THERE'S
ANOTHER
BASKET-
BALL
THING
NEXT
SUNDAY.

SHE
WAS
JUST
HERE.

HEH?



WHERE'D
THAT
COME
FROM,
ANYWAY?

FROM
KANZAKI-
SAN.

YUUP

YOU GUYS
ARE GONNA
BE THERE
TOO, RIGHT?

On
Sunday.

...CUZ SHE
WANTED
TO SEE HIM.
I MEAN,
HE ALREADY
KNEW ABOUT
SUNDAY.

I
BETCHA
SHE ONLY
CAME
HERE...

WHAT'S
THE BIG
SECRET,
YOU
TWO?

WELL,
YEAH,
BUT...

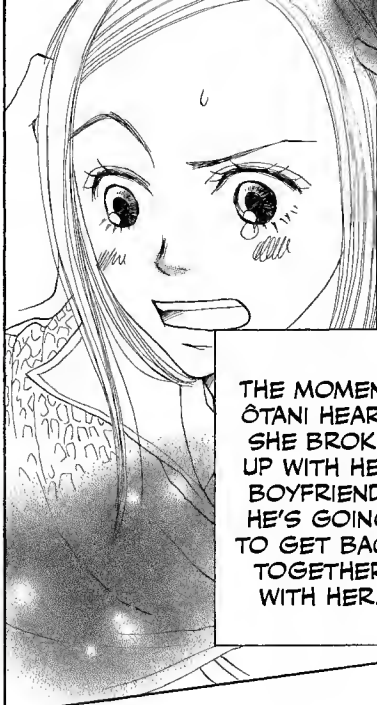
WELL,
GOSH, IF
ÔTANI'S GOING,
YOU WANNA BE
THERE TO SEE
WHAT HAPPENS,
DON'T YOU?

HUH?!

YES
INDEED
WE
ARE!!

SHE'S
REALLY
CUTE. AND
HE USED
TO BE NUTS
ABOUT HER.
SO IF SHE
SHOWS UP
LOOKING
ALL SAD AND
LONELY...

...HE'LL
WANT TO
CHEER HER
UP, WON'T
HE? HE'LL
WANT TO
COMFORT
HER
SOMEHOW.



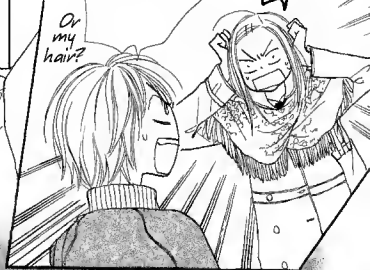
OMIGOD.

THE MOMENT
ÔTANI HEARS
SHE BROKE
UP WITH HER
BOYFRIEND,
HE'S GOING
TO GET BACK
TOGETHER
WITH HER.

YOU
GOT A
PROBLEM
WITH MY
FACE?!

ARGH,
NOOO!!

Or
my
hair?



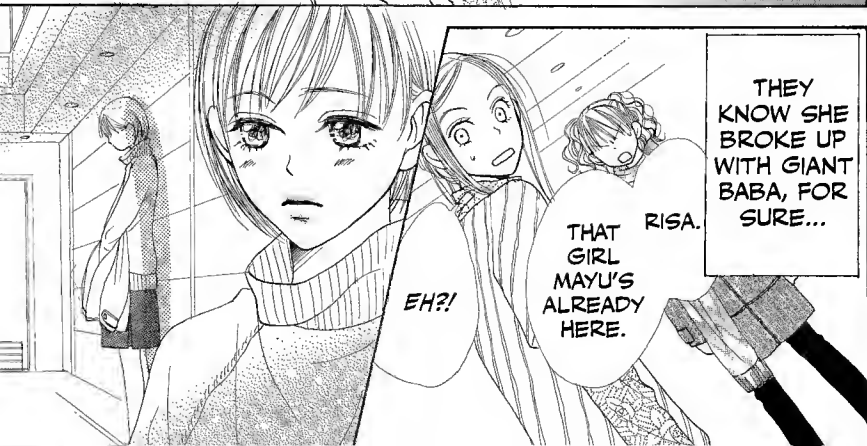
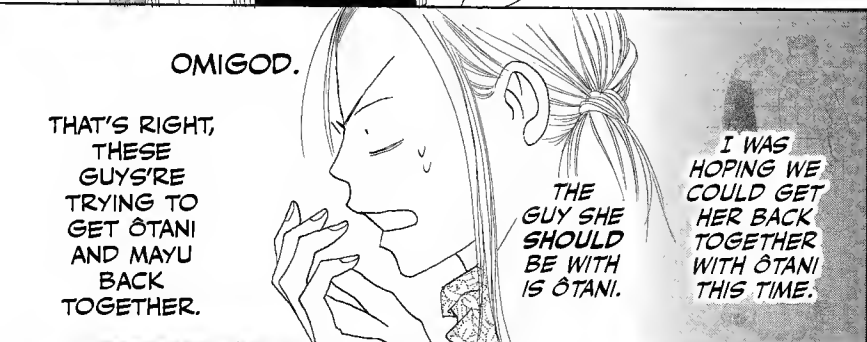
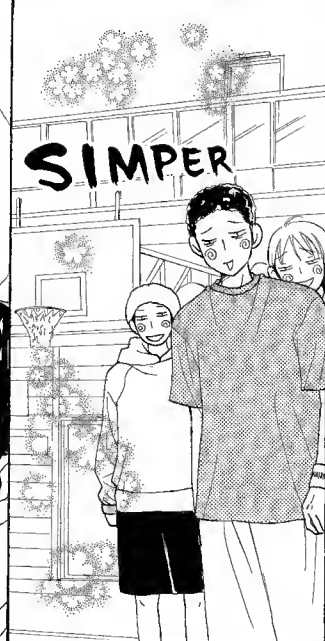
I CAN'T
TAKE
THAT!!

I HAVE
TO DO
SOME-
THING!!

HE'S
GOING TO
FORGET I
EVEN EXIST.
I'M GOING
TO BE
ERASED
FROM HIS
BRAIN!

NO...







JUST
GET IN
THE WAY
TO MAKE
SURE
THOSE
TWO
DON'T
TALK TO
EACH
OTHER!!



GO GRAB
OTANI'S
ATTENTION
BEFORE
HE GETS
CAUGHT
IN HER
POOR-ME
TRAP!!

GO
ON, RISA!

Ohhh,
you'll
see...

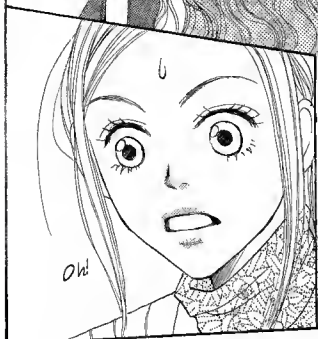
What's
up,
dudes?

WHAAT?!
BUT
HOW?!

YEAH,
SHE'S
SENDING
OUT MEGA
"ASK ME
WHAT'S THE
MATTER"
VIBES!!

OH NO,
WHAT DO
WE DO?!
SHE'S
TOTALLY
MOPING!!

That
wily
little
fox!!

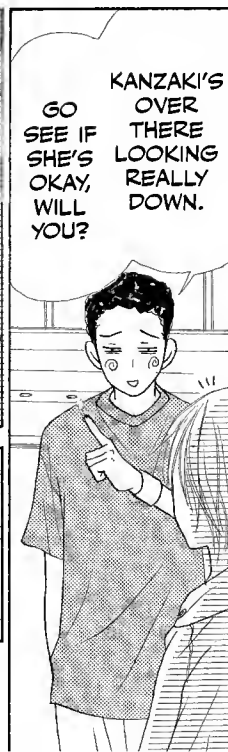


Ow!

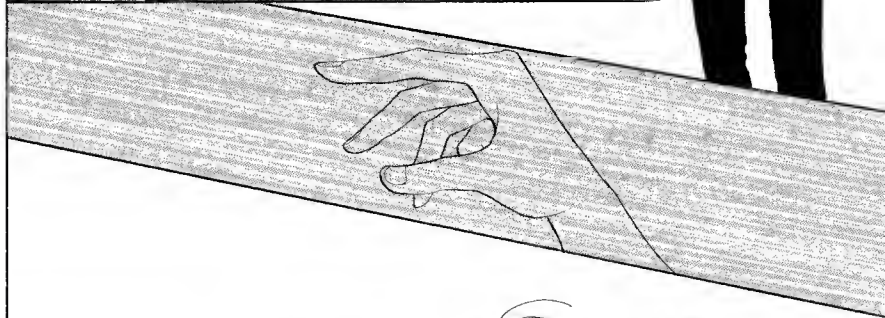
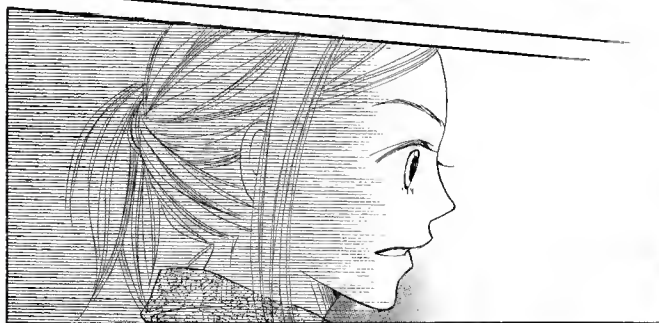
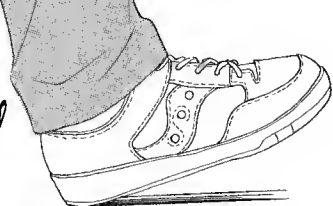


1/2
1/2
1/2

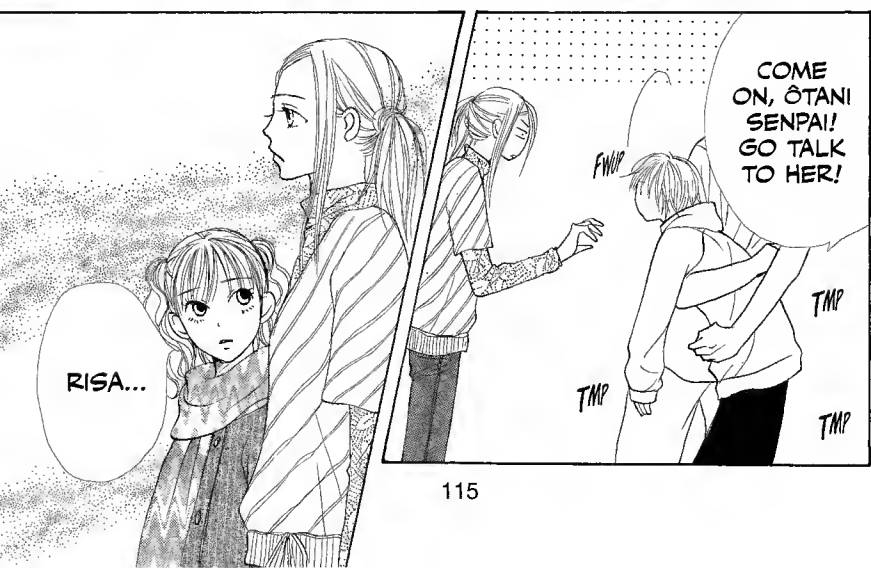
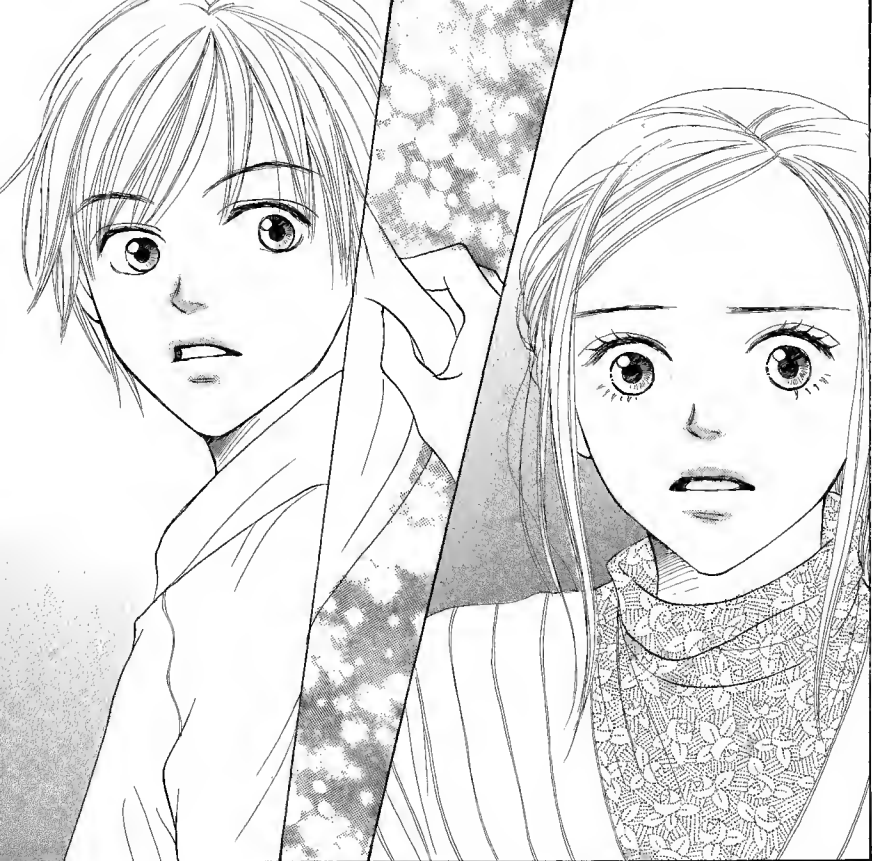
OWWWW...



KYUP



ÔTANI...!



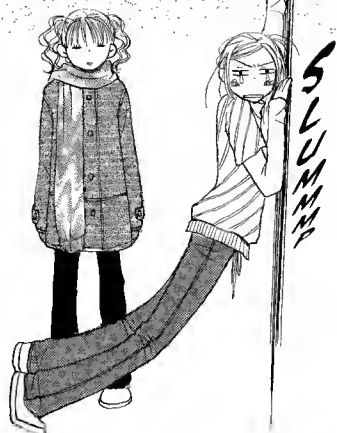


ATSUSHI-KUN...



WHAT'S
UP WITH
EVERY-
BODY
TODAY...

IT'S
ALL
OVER...



OH,
UM—
HI.
UH...



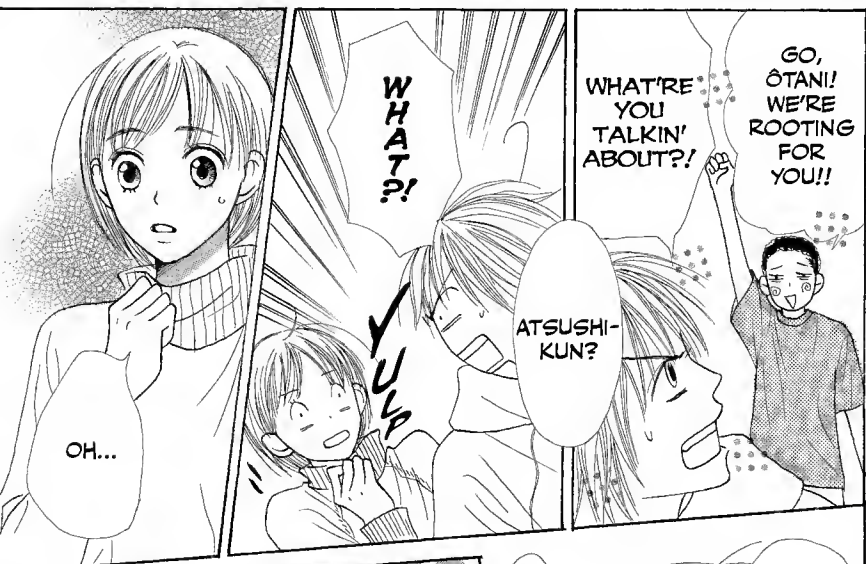
WELL,
IT'S JUST
THAT...
UH, YOU
SEEM
KINDA
DOWN.

OH...
DO
I...?



WHAT'S
THE
MATTER?
SOME-
THING
HAPPEN?

HUH?





...WELL,
ACTU-
ALLY...

WE
BROKE
UP A
LITTLE
WHILE
AGO...

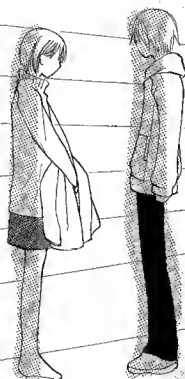


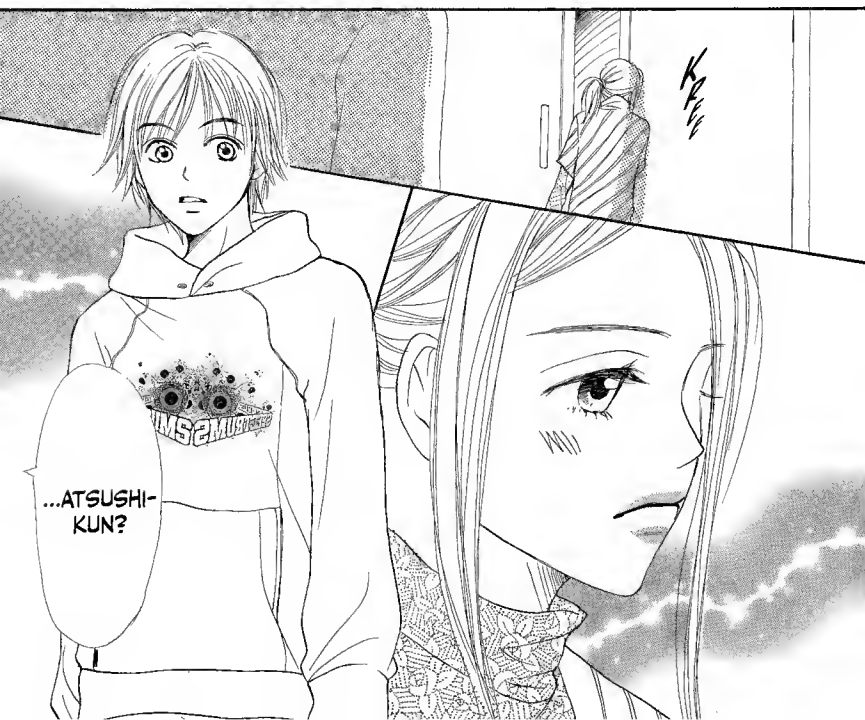
TOTTER

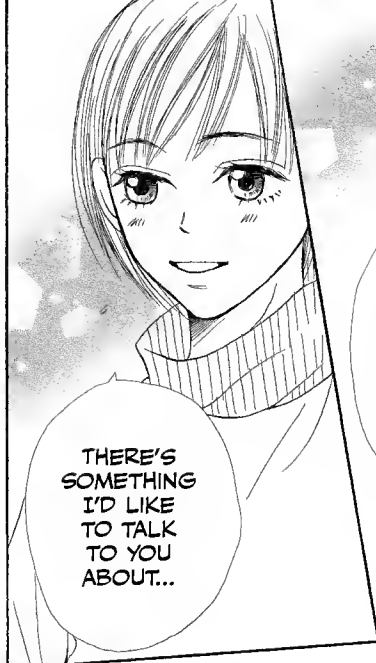
I'LL
GO
WITH
YOU.

WHAT?

...I'M
GOING
HOME.







THERE'S
SOMETHING
I'D LIKE
TO TALK
TO YOU
ABOUT...

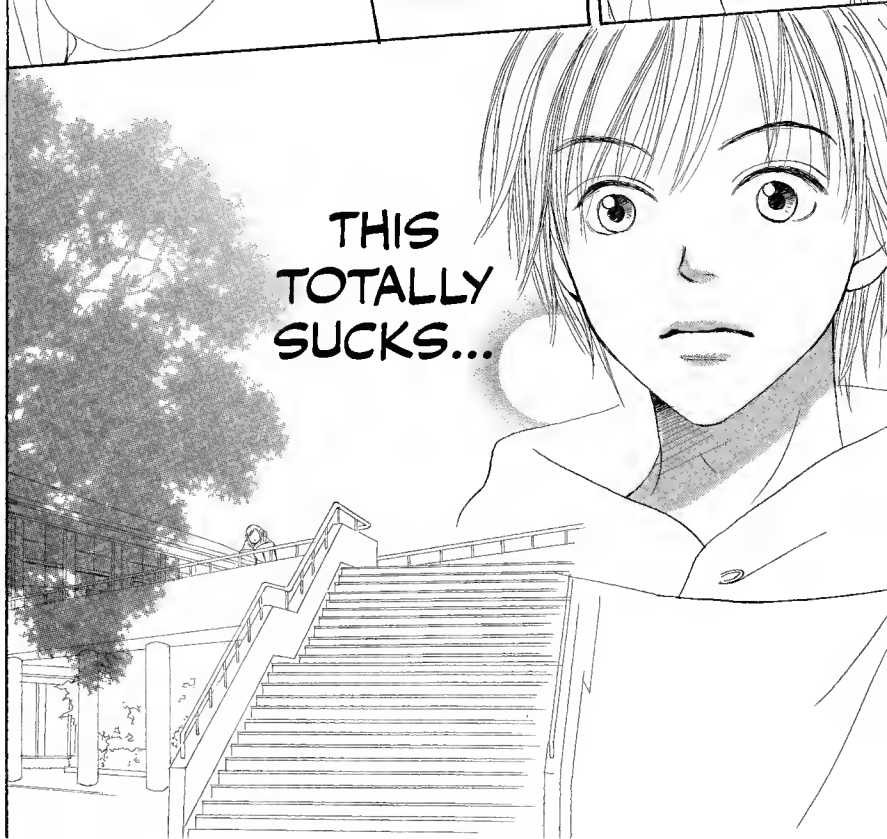


COULD
YOU...

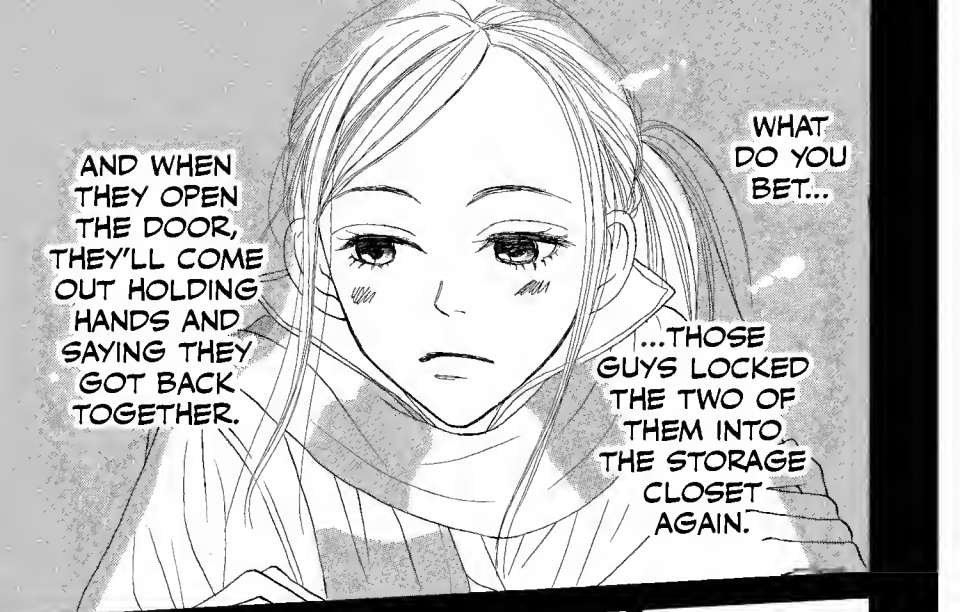
...COME
MEET ME
AFTER
SCHOOL
SOMETIME?



HUH?



THIS
TOTALLY
SUCKS...



AND WHEN
THEY OPEN
THE DOOR,
THEY'LL COME
OUT HOLDING
HANDS AND
SAYING THEY
GOT BACK
TOGETHER.

WHAT
DO YOU
BET...

...THOSE
GUYS LOCKED
THE TWO OF
THEM INTO
THE STORAGE
CLOSET
AGAIN.

I KNEW
THIS
WOULD
HAPPEN.

FUNNY
GIRL'S
NO MATCH
FOR MISS
LOVE-OF-
HIS-LIFE.



WHEN I GOT
LOCKED IN
THERE WITH
HIM, ALL THAT
HAPPENED
WAS HE
STARTED
LAUGHING
AT ME.



WELL,
FINE!
SEE
IF I
CARE.

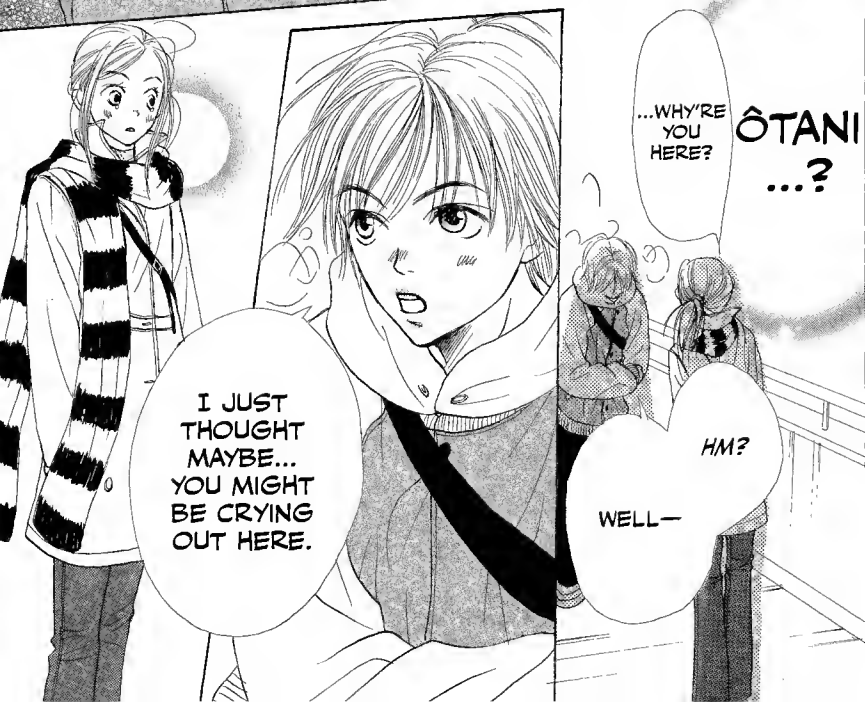
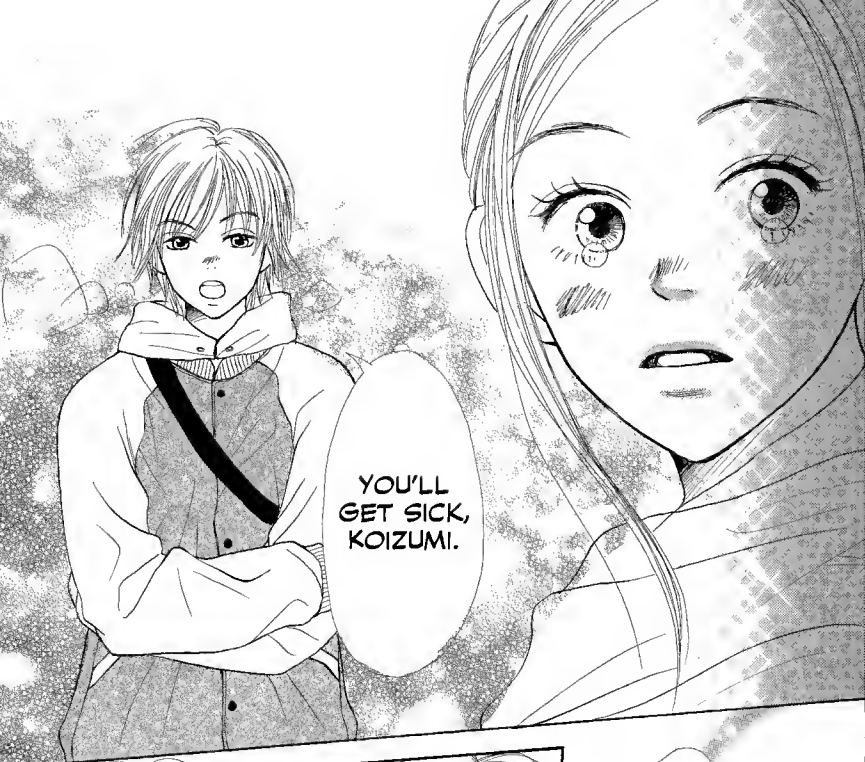
HEY!

WHAT'RE
YOU
DOING
OUT
HERE?
YOU'LL
FREEZE
YOUR
BUTT
OFF.

...I'M
GOING
HOME.

FY0006H

BRRR,
IT'S
COLD.



SO
WHY?

AAA-
ARGHH...

...WHY?
WHY'RE
YOU
HERE?
WHAT
ABOUT
MAYU?

SORRY,
BUT I
DON'T
HAVE ANY
UMIBÔZU
TICKETS
ON ME LIKE
I DID LAST
CHRISTMAS,
OKAY?

BUT...

Why
would
I be
crying...

WHOA,
THAT IS
UGLY.

NAW.
THAT'S
NOT IT.
WONDER
WHAT
IT IS...

HE'D
BE SO
NERVOUS
AROUND
HER, HE
COULDN'T
EVEN
TALK.

...BECAUSE
YOU WERE
NERVOUS?

WELL,
WHAT I
WANT
TO
KNOW
IS...

MAN,
TALKING
TO MAYU
KINDA...
I DON'T
KNOW,
IT KINDA
WORE ME
OUT,
SORTA.

STRETCH



YOU
IDIOT!

WHY'RE
YOU
HERE?



I HAVE A
BETTER TIME
WITH YOU!
I GUESS
MAYBE SHE'S
NOT REALLY
MY TYPE
AFTER ALL.

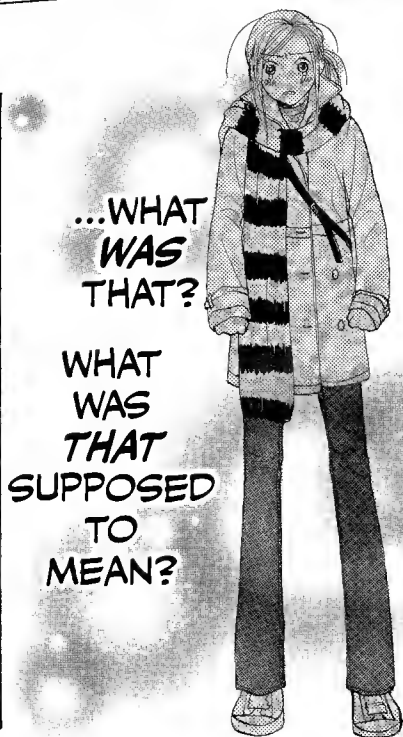
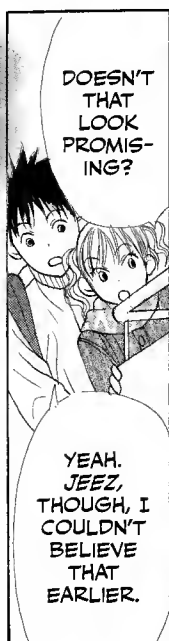
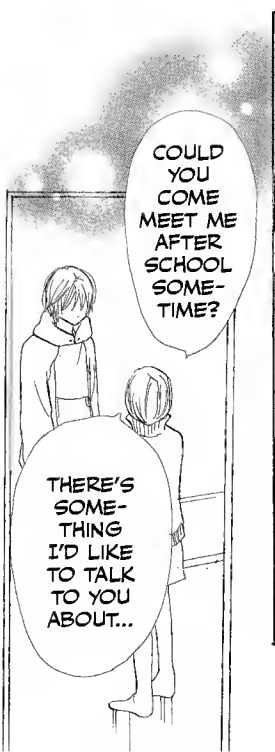
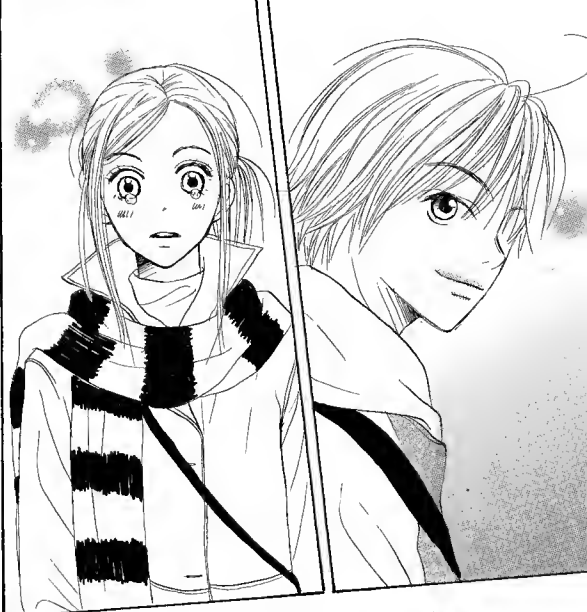
ha
ha
ha

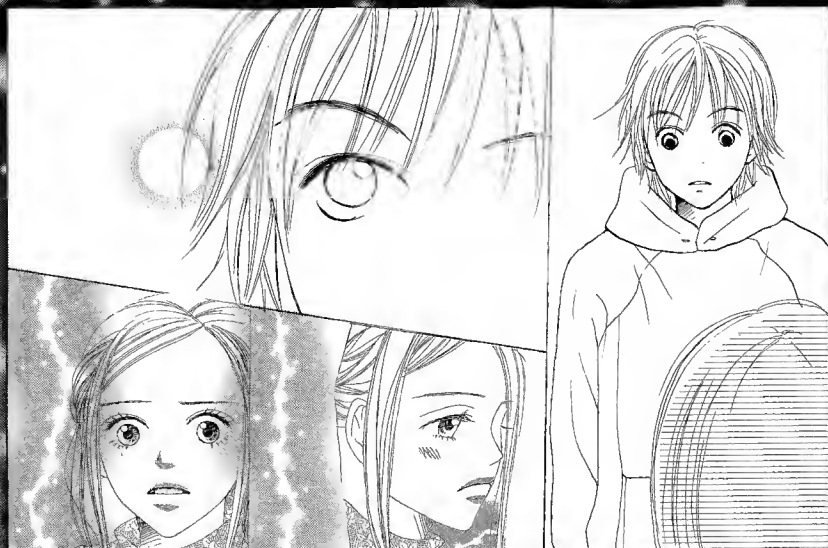


WHAT
IS SO
DARN
FUNNY?!

HA
HA
HA
HA!

I
DON'T
KNOW!
HA HA
HA HA
HA!





HUH?

I
CAN'T
DO
THAT.

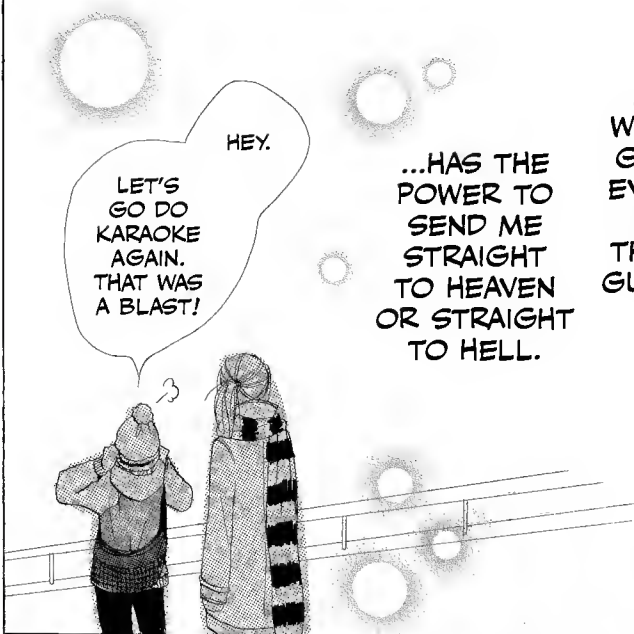
SORRY.



I
SWEAR...

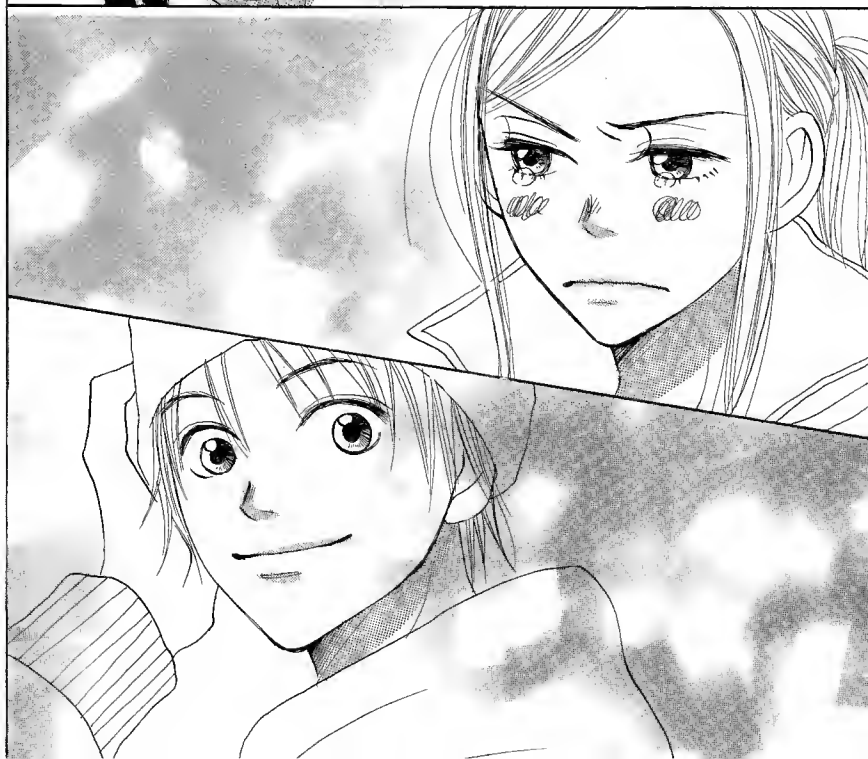
THERE'S
THIS IDIOT
WHO'LL
START
CRYING
IF I SEE
YOU. SO
I CAN'T.





...HAS THE
POWER TO
SEND ME
STRAIGHT
TO HEAVEN
OR STRAIGHT
TO HELL.

...EVERY
WORD THIS
GUY SAYS,
EVERY TINY
LITTLE
THING THIS
GUY DOES...



IT'S LIKE
MY WHOLE
UNIVERSE
IS STARTING
TO REVOLVE
AROUND
ÔTANI.

SHUT
UP!!

WHAT?
HOW
COME?
KARAOKE
MAKES
YOU MAD?

IT
MAKES
ME SO
MAD!!





I SURE
WASN'T
EXPECTING
ANYTHING.



I CAN'T JUST
SUDDENLY
START GOING
OUT WITH
YOU OR
THINKING OF
YOU THAT WAY.

HE'S
ALREADY
TURNED
ME DOWN
ONCE,
AFTER ALL.

I
MEAN,
GOSH.

I MEAN,
MY
GOSH...
THAT
KINDA...

I HAVE A
BETTER TIME
WITH YOU!
I GUESS
MAYBE SHE'S
NOT REALLY
MY TYPE,
AFTER ALL.

...WHAT
WAS
THAT?

I JUST
THOUGHT
MAYBE...
YOU MIGHT
BE CRYING
OUT HERE.

BUT
THEN...

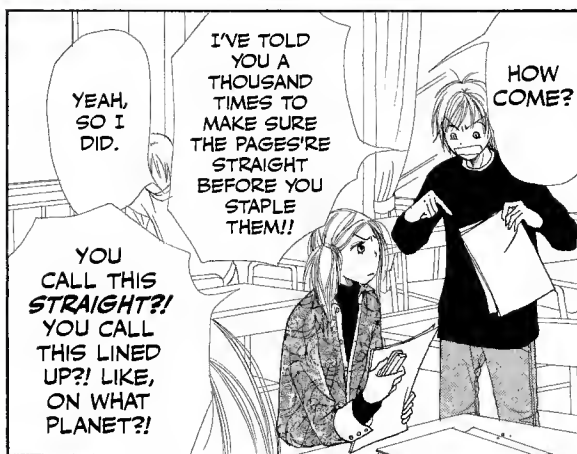
CHAPTER 20





YOU
MAKE
ME SICK,
KOIZUMI.
YOU'RE
REALLY
THE PITS!!

...SORTA
MAKES ME
FEEL LIKE
I MIGHT
HAVE A
CHANCE
WITH HIM.



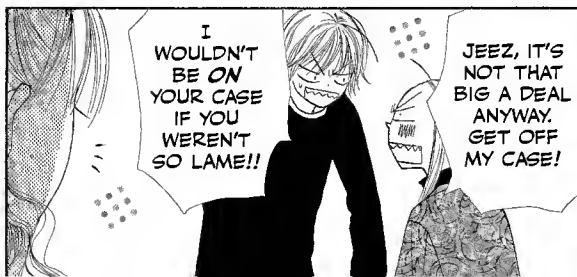
YEAH,
SO I
DID.

I'VE TOLD
YOU A
THOUSAND
TIMES TO
MAKE SURE
THE PAGES'RE
STRAIGHT
BEFORE YOU
STAPLE
THEM!!

HOW
COME?

YOU
CALL THIS
STRAIGHT?!
YOU CALL
THIS LINED
UP?! LIKE,
ON WHAT
PLANET?!

OPATHA

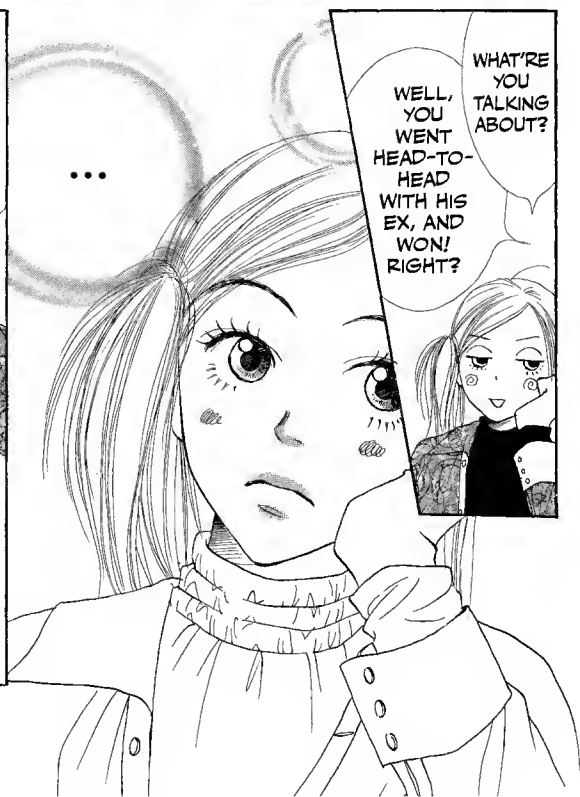
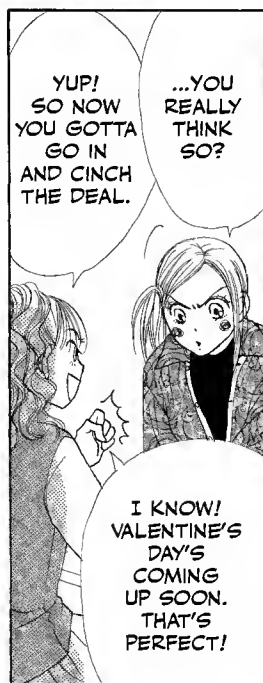
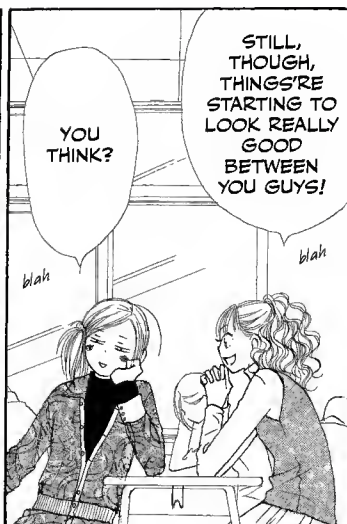


I
WOULDN'T
BE **ON**
YOUR CASE
IF YOU
WEREN'T
SO LAME!!

JEEZ, IT'S
NOT THAT
BIG A DEAL
ANYWAY.
GET OFF
MY CASE!









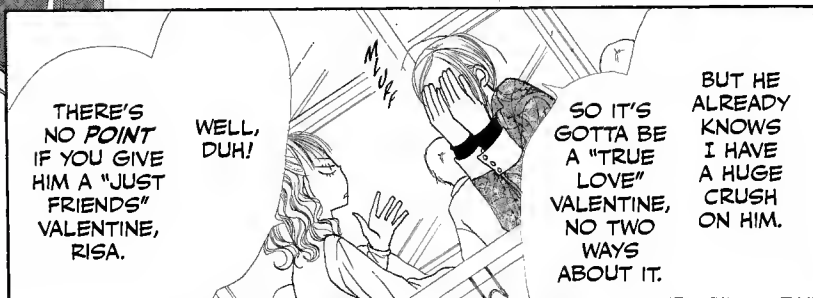
HMMM...



COME TO
THINK OF IT,
I DIDN'T GIVE
HIM HIS
VALENTINE
LAST YEAR
AFTER ALL.

I ENDED
UP GIVING
IT TO
HARUKA
INSTEAD.

VALENTINE'S
DAY...

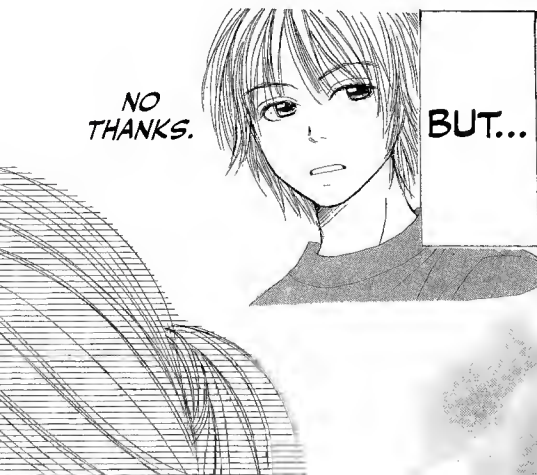


THERE'S
NO POINT
IF YOU GIVE
HIM A "JUST
FRIENDS"
VALENTINE,
RISA.

WELL,
DUH!

SO IT'S
GOTTA BE
A "TRUE
LOVE"
VALENTINE,
NO TWO
WAYS
ABOUT IT.

BUT HE
ALREADY
KNOWS
I HAVE
A HUGE
CRUSH
ON HIM.



NO
THANKS.

BUT...



BUT
THAT'S LIKE
TELLING
HIM ALL
OVER AGAIN!
I DON'T
WANNA
DO THAT!

YES
YOU DO!
JUST
DO IT!!

NO! I
CAN'T
TAKE
THAT
EITHER!!

PLUS,
WHAT IF
OTHER
GIRLS
GIVE HIM
VALENTINES
AND YOU
DON'T?

HE
WON'T
SAY
THAT.

RIGHT?

IF HE
SAYS "NO
THANKS"
AGAIN LIKE
LAST YEAR, I
DON'T THINK
I COULD
TAKE IT!
I REALLY
DON'T!

I
CAN'T!!
I JUST
CAN'T!!
NO
WAY!!

SO
WHAT
AM I
SUPPOSED
TO DO?!

A
A
A
R
G
H
!!

BZZZZ

I MEAN,
IF I GIVE
HIM ONE,
IT'S
OBVIOUSLY
FOR REAL.

I DON'T
KNOW
ABOUT
GIVING
A FOR-REAL
VALENTINE
TO SOME-
BODY WHO'S
ALREADY
TURNED YOU
DOWN ONCE
BEFORE.

OH,
GOSH.
A
VALEN-
TINE...

SHE
SURE
SQUAWKS
A LOT.

*Like, we're
in the middle
of a class
here?*



UH-
HUH.

DID YOU
GET ANY
VALENTINES
FROM
ANYBODY
LAST YEAR?

YOU
DID?!

HMM?

HEY.



UH-UH.
I KNOW
FOR
A FACT
THEY
WEREN'T.

HOW
DO YOU
KNOW?
MAYBE
THEY
WERE.

THOSE
WEREN'T
FOR REAL,
THOUGH.

EVER SINCE
YAMAMOTO
JOINED
THE TEAM,
THEY'RE ALL
OVER HIM.
IT'S LIKE
I DON'T
EXIST.

OH.
THEM.

UM.
FROM,
UM,
WHO...?

YOU
KNOW, THOSE
GIRLS WHO'RE
ALWAYS THERE
WATCHING US
PRACTICE.
BASKETBALL.

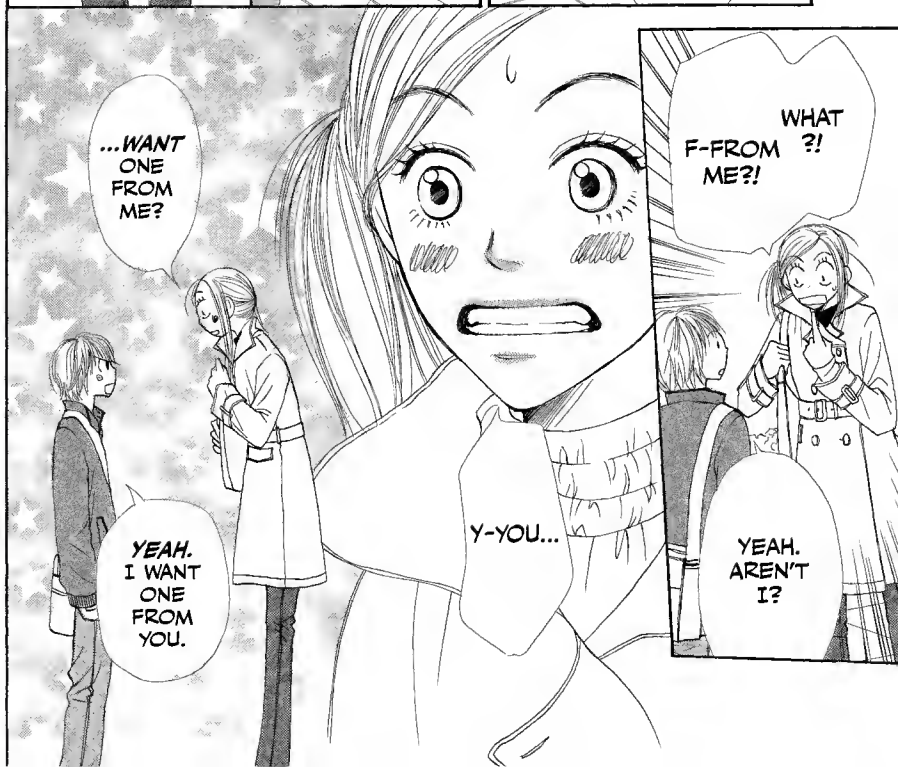


AND
ANYHOW,
THIS YEAR
I'M GETTING
AT LEAST
**ONE VALEN-
TINE** FOR
SURE.

NOT
THAT I
REALLY
CARE.

FROM
YOU.
AREN'T
I?

HEH?



...WANT
ONE
FROM
ME?

YEAH.
I WANT
ONE
FROM
YOU.

Y-YOU...

WHAT
F-FROM
ME?!

YEAH.
AREN'T
I?



...REALLY?

WELL,
I'LL
MAKE IT
UP TO
YOU
PRETTY
SOON.

OH. BUT
YOU'VE
GIVEN ME
A BUNCH
OF STUFF
LATELY.

HEY.

*The
glad's I
gave him*



Well,
if you
want one
soooo
baaaad,
I suppose
I could...

DON'T
ACT
LIKE
YOU'RE
DOING
ME
SUCH A
HUGE
FAVOR!!



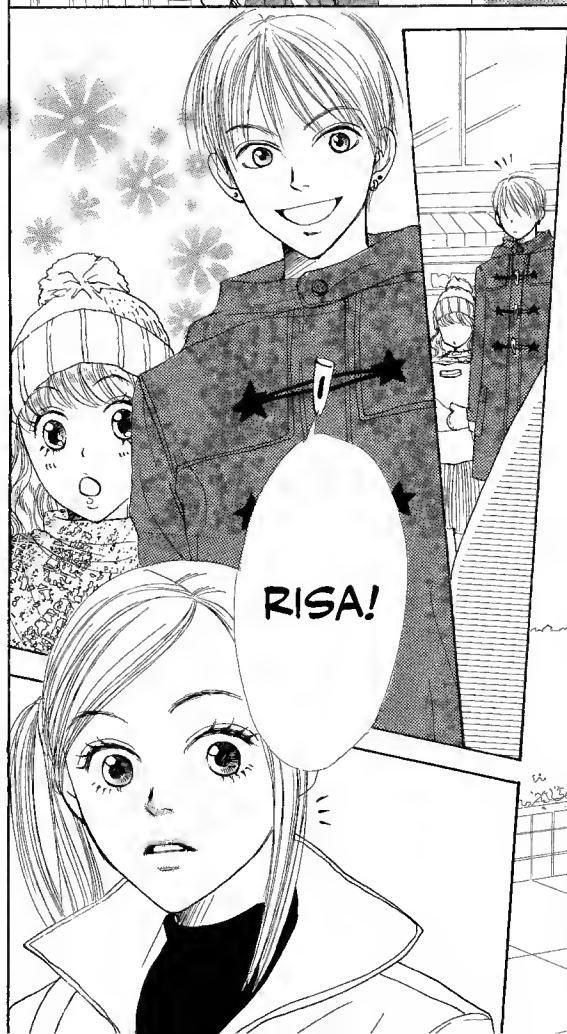
THAT
KINDA
SOUNDS
LIKE I
REALLY
DO HAVE
A CHANCE
AFTER
ALL.



I
MEAN,
GOSH.



DON'T
TELL
ME...



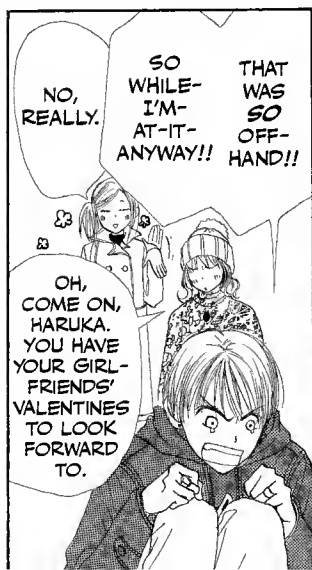
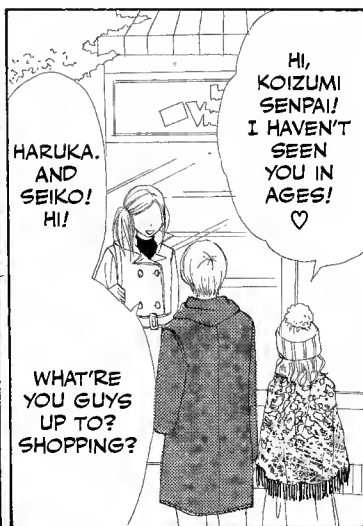
RISA!

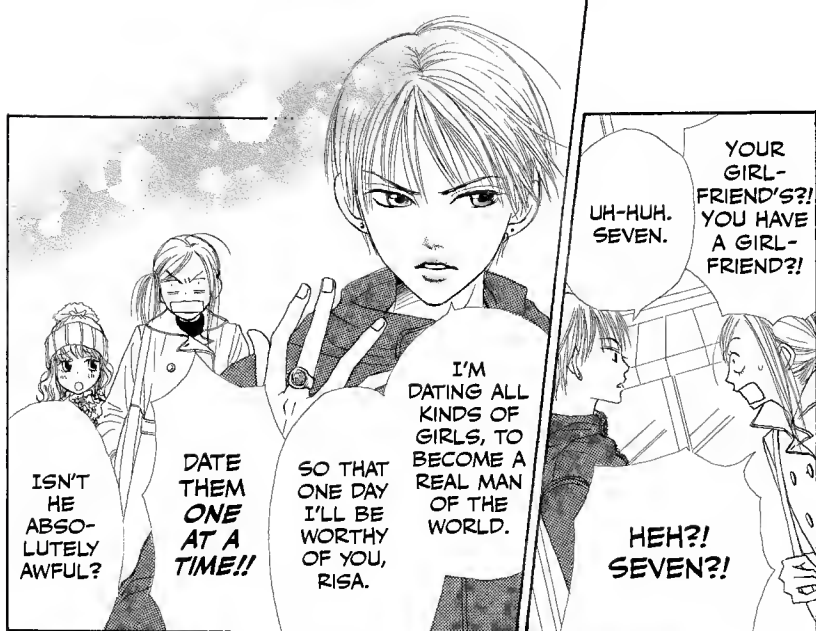
...THINGS
REALLY
ARE
STARTING
TO LOOK
GOOD
BETWEEN
US?



I
MEAN,
HE
ACTUALLY
SAID...

...HE
WANTS
ONE
FROM
ME.
SO...





ISN'T HE
ABSO-
LUTELY
AWFUL?

DATE
THEM
**ONE
AT A
TIME!!**

SO THAT
ONE DAY
I'LL BE
WORTHY
OF YOU,
RISA.

I'M
DATING ALL
KINDS OF
GIRLS, TO
BECOME A
REAL MAN
OF THE
WORLD.

UH-HUH.
SEVEN.

YOUR
GIRL-
FRIEND'S?!
YOU HAVE
A GIRL-
FRIEND?!

HEH?!
SEVEN?!



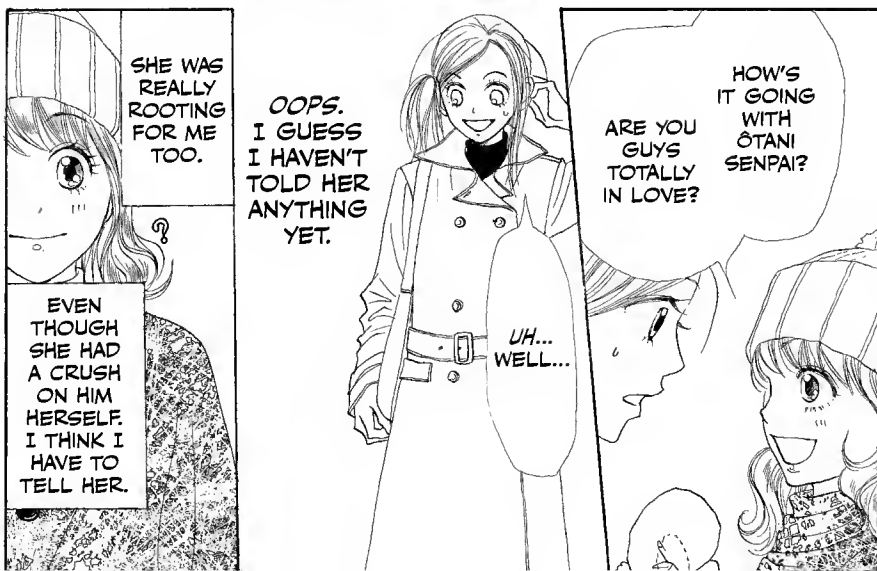
HEY,
KOIZUMI
SENPAI!

SINCE
WHEN
IS THAT
SHORT?!

*You'll be
over 100!*

I ONLY
HAVE
ANOTHER
90 YEARS
OR SO
LEFT...

MY
LIFE'S
TOO
SHORT
FOR
THAT...



SHE WAS
REALLY
ROOTING
FOR ME
TOO.

OOPS.
I GUESS
I HAVEN'T
TOLD HER
ANYTHING
YET.

EVEN
THOUGH
SHE HAD
A CRUSH
ON HIM
HERSELF.
I THINK I
HAVE TO
TELL HER.

UH...
WELL...

HOW'S
IT GOING
WITH
OTANI
SENPAI?

ARE YOU
GUYS
TOTALLY
IN LOVE?



So anyway,
thank you for
reading this
again. I really
look forward
to seeing you
all in Vol. 6.
Until then,
bye! ☆

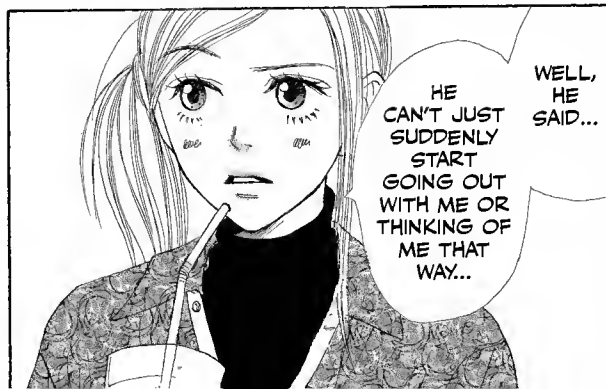
Aya 
May 2003

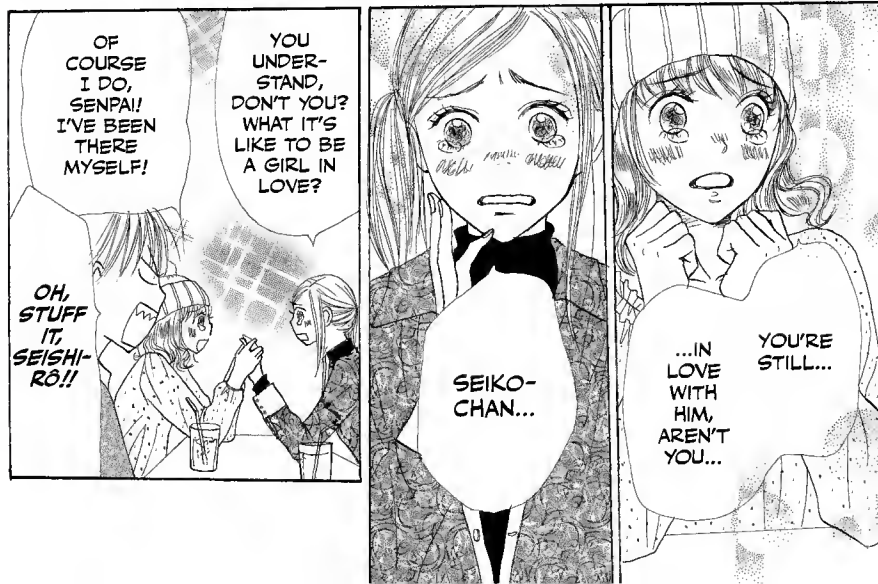
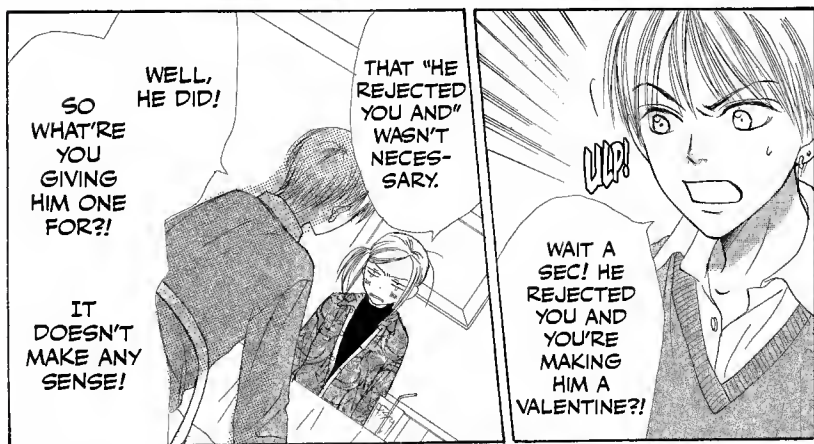


P.S.
The bonus Page (+4)s
in this volume are the
characters' profiles
that were actually
published in Bessatsu
Margaret.
Oh, and there's no
episode of "24 Hours
with the LCPD"
this time, because
the author, Aya
Nakahara Sensei,
is away on business.
What business?
pfff, tee hee

♥Special Thanks♥

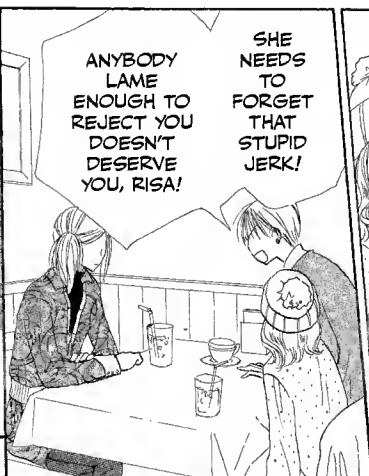
Nana Ikebe
Hikari Katayama
Ryosuke Fujii
Nakahara Family
Betsuma Family
and
you







...



ANYBODY
LAME
ENOUGH TO
REJECT YOU
DOESN'T
DESERVE
YOU, RISA!

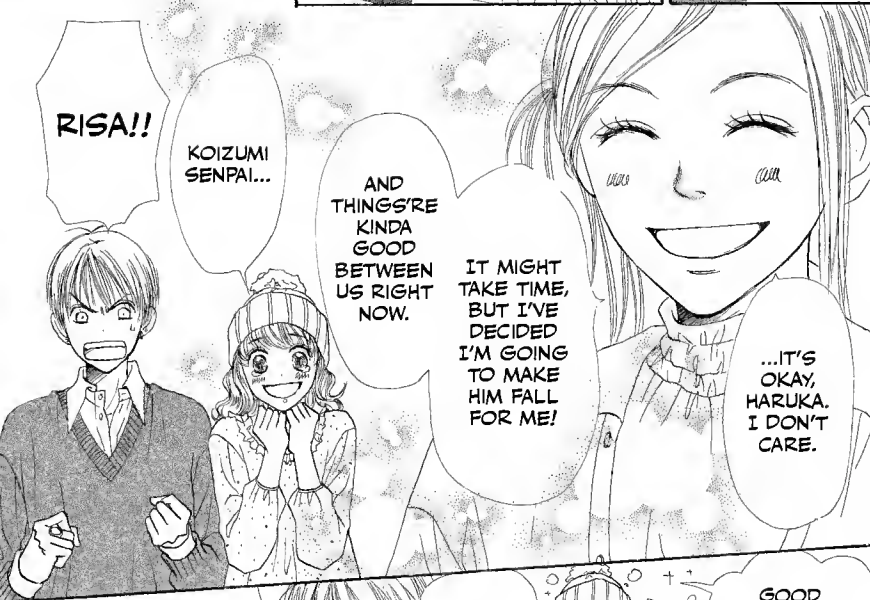
SHE
NEEDS
TO
FORGET
THAT
STUPID
JERK!



MY
NAME IS
SEIKO!!

I'm
a girl!!

WELL,
RISA
DOESN'T
NEED
UNDER-
STANDING
RIGHT
NOW!!



RISA!!

KOIZUMI
SENPAI...

AND
THINGS'RE
KINDA
GOOD
BETWEEN
US RIGHT
NOW.

IT MIGHT
TAKE TIME,
BUT I'VE
DECIDED
I'M GOING
TO MAKE
HIM FALL
FOR ME!

...IT'S
OKAY,
HARUKA.
I DON'T
CARE.



MIWAAAGH!
I AM GOING
TO THRASH
THAT SNOTTY
LITTLE
SHRIMP!!

THANK
YOU,
SEIKO!
I'M SURE
GONNA
TRY!

GOOD
LUCK,
SENPAI!!
I REALLY
HOPE IT
WORKS
OUT!

...HE
STARTS
TO FALL
FOR ME.

SO
LONG
AS,
LITTLE
BY
LITTLE...

THAT'S
RIGHT.
I DON'T
CARE IF
IT TAKES
A LONG
TIME.

NO
NEED
TO
HURRY.
JUST
TAKE IT
SLOW.

KOIZUMI!

UMIBÔZU'S
LONG-AWAITED
NEW ALBUM
BOZO

Oh
yeah.
CHECK
THIS OUT!
UMIBÔZU'S
RELEASING
A NEW
CD THIS
SPRING.

WHAT'S
UP?

I
DUNNO.

WHY'RE
YOU IN
SUCH A
GOOD
MOOD?

UGH!

YEEES?
AND
HOW
MAY I
HELP
YOU?

I
WANNA
GO
TOO!

OMIGOD!!
YOU'RE
RIGHT,
I CAN'T
WAIT!!

YOU
KNOW
WHAT
THAT
MEANS.
HE'S
GONNA
TOUR
SOON.

WE'RE
GOING!

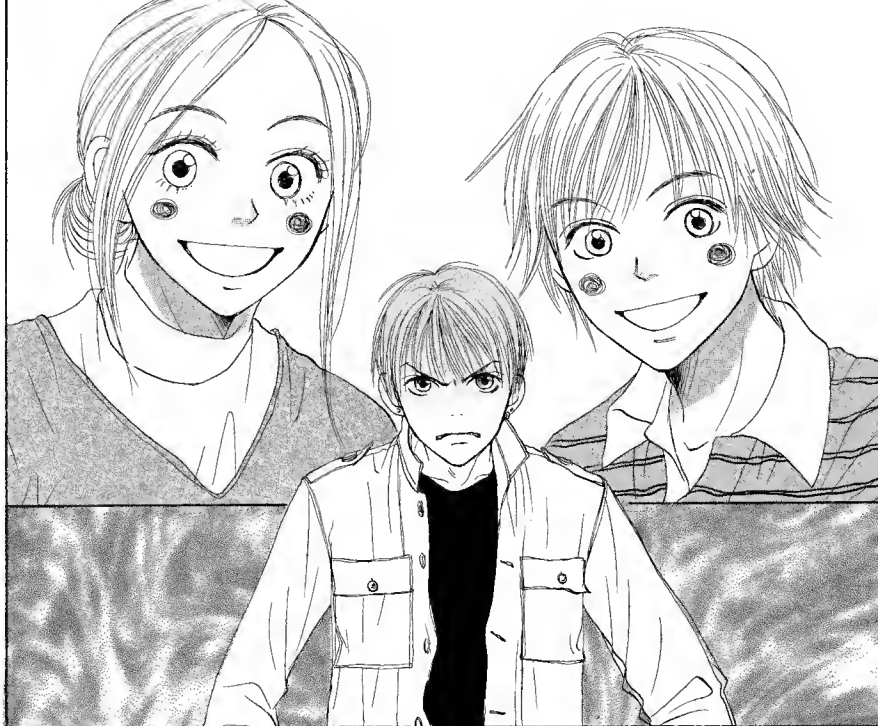
FOR
REAL?!
I'M
GONNA
GET IT
FOR
SURE!!

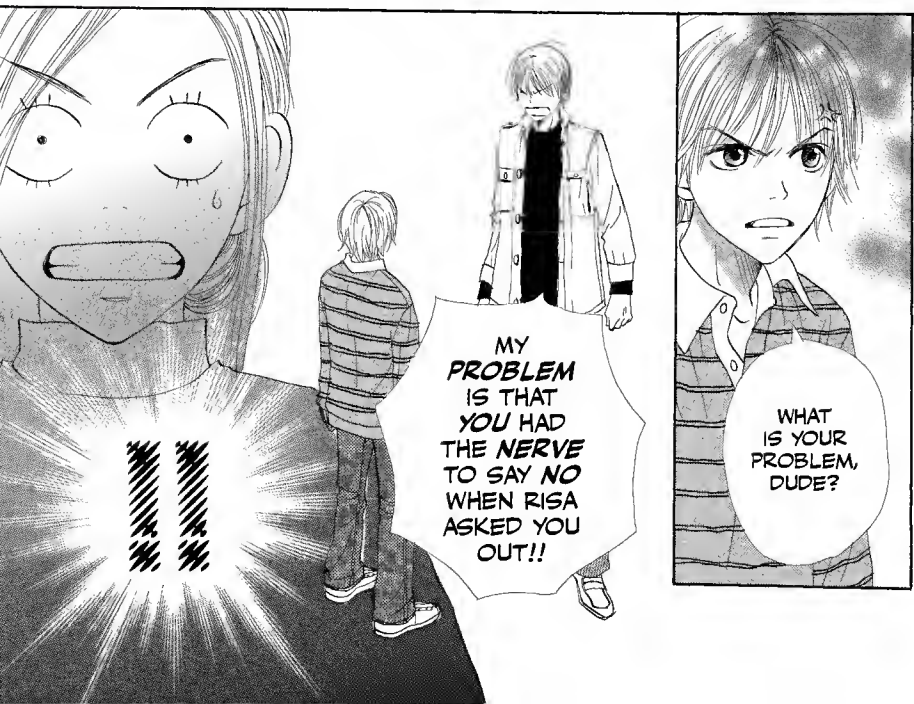
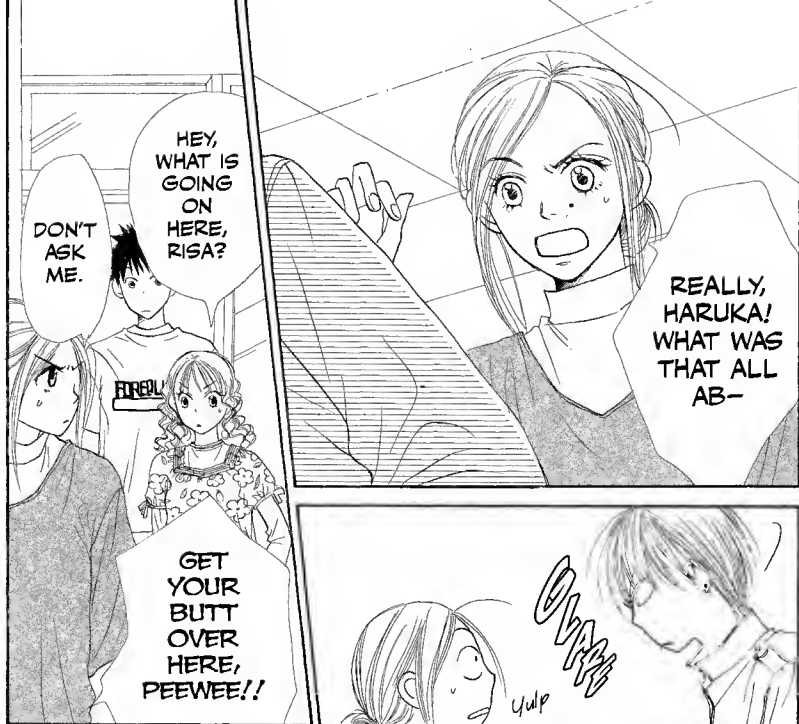
OH,
YEAH.

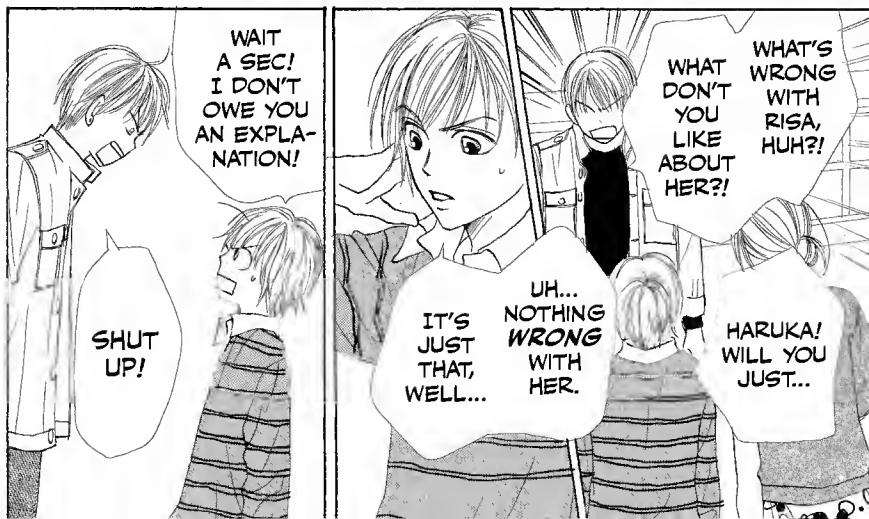
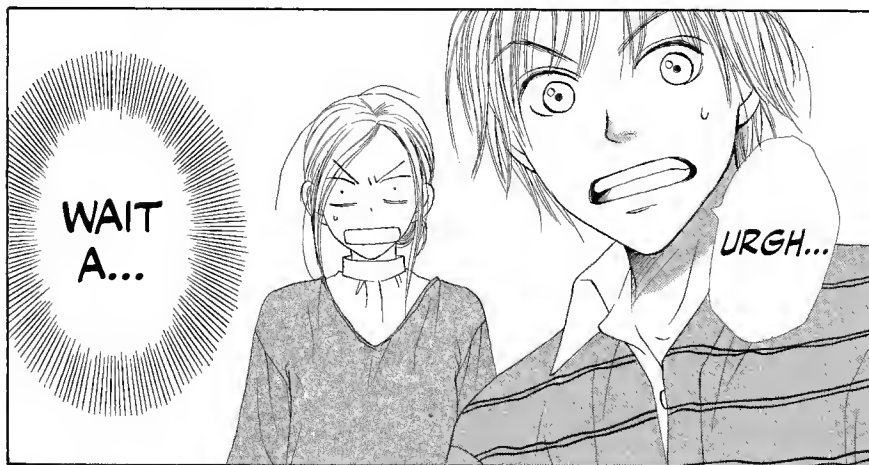
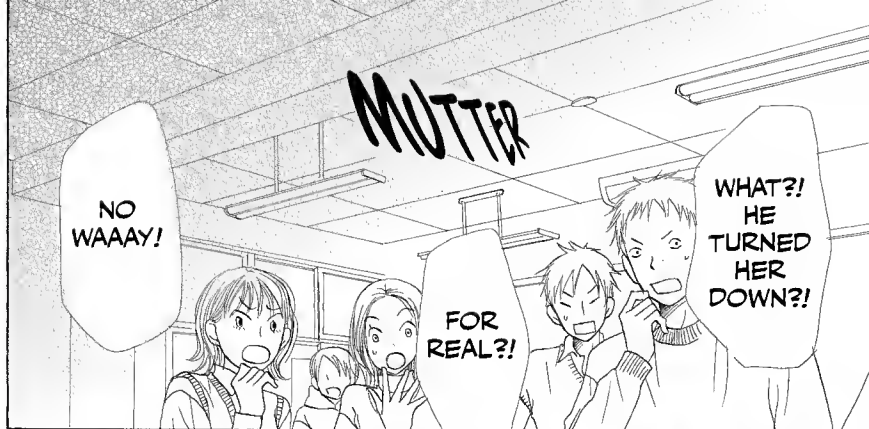
WONDER
WHEN THE
TICKETS
GO ON
SALE...

WELL, DUH.
WHO'D YOU
THINK I MEANT
WHEN I SAID
"WE"? WHO
ELSE WOULD
I GO SEE
UMIBÔZU WITH?

*Ain't
nobody
else.*











WILL YOU JUST KEEP YOUR NOSE OUT OF MY BUSI-NESS?!

ARRRGH!
JUST WHEN THINGS
WERE FINALLY
SETTLING
INTO A NICE
GROOVE
BETWEEN
US TOO.
THANKS A
LOT, HARUKA!

WHAT THE HECK DOES *THAT* MEAN ?!

SORRY, BUT I'M ON NOBU-CHAN'S SIDE IN THIS!

SORRY, BUT I'M ON RISA'S SIDE IN THIS!

HELP ME OUT HERE, DUDES!!



THE WAY
HE'S ALWAYS
AROUND YOU,
PRACTICALLY
FLIRTING WITH
YOU, AFTER
HE TOTALLY
REJECTED
YOU!

WELL,
GOSH!

SOME-
BODY
HAD TO
TELL
HIM!
THAT
SHRIMP
IS THE
PITS!

IT'S FINE,
HARUKA.
I ASKED
HIM TO BE
LIKE THAT
AROUND
ME! OKAY?!

I MEAN,
TALK ABOUT
INSENSITIVE!
HE'S LIKE,
CLUELESS!

IN
WHAT
WAY?!



I KNOW
THAT,
THANKS!

BUT I
WAS JUST
THINKING
OF YOU,
RISA.

BUT NO
THANKS!

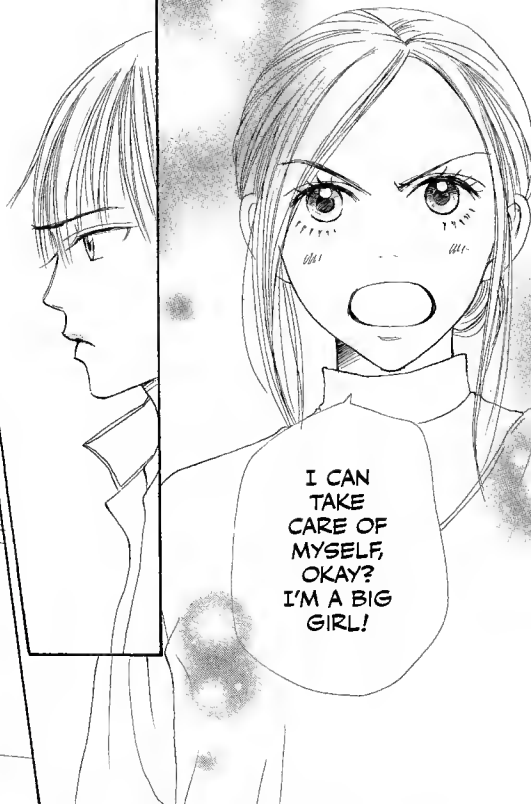


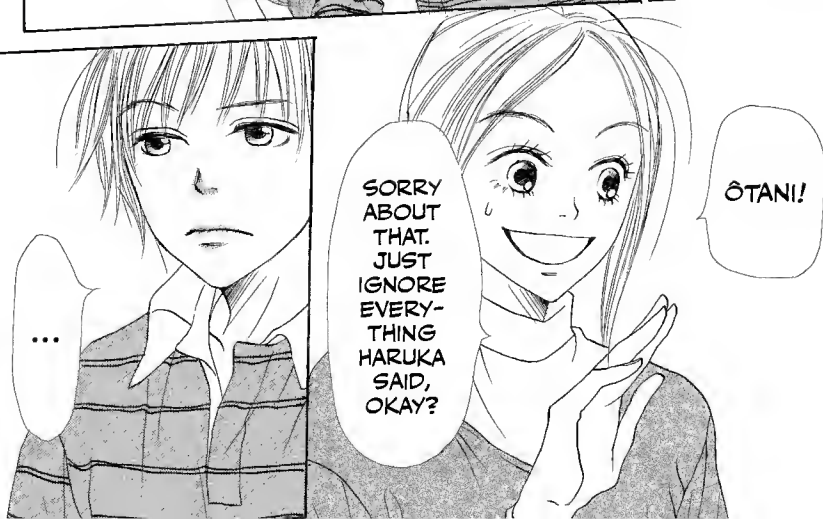
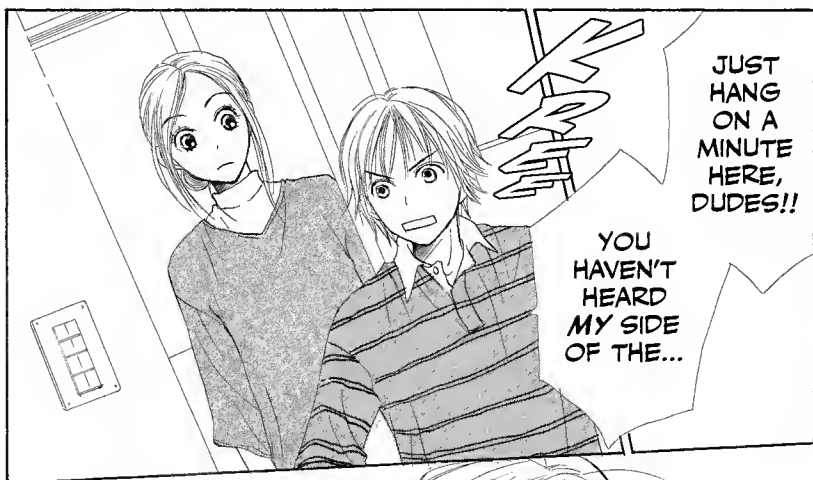
I SAID
IT'S FINE,
SO IT'S
FINE!
NOW JUST
SHUT UP
AND BUTT
OUT, OR
ELSE!!

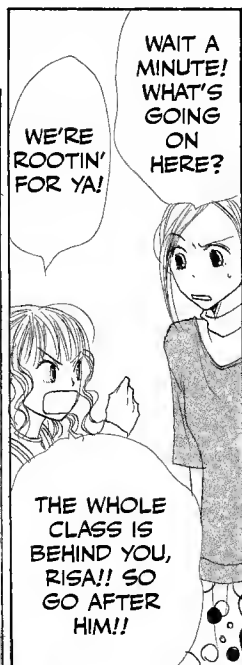
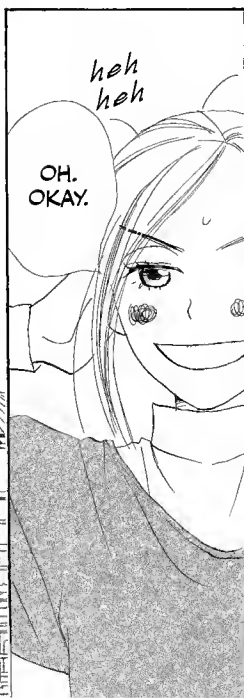
BUT
THAT'S
SO...

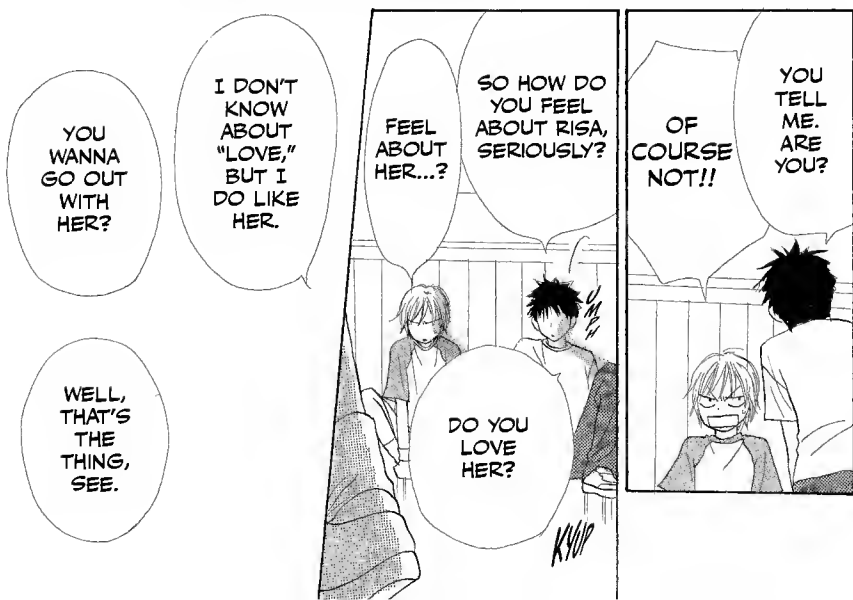
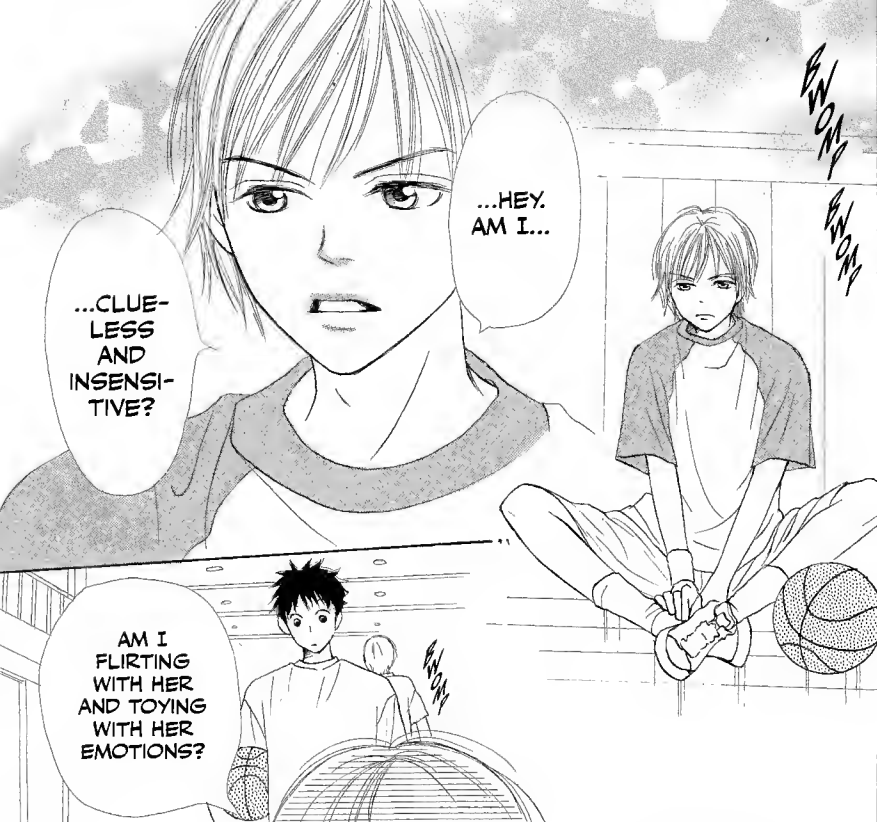
HUH?

I WANTED
THINGS TO
BE BACK
TO THE WAY
THEY WERE
BEFORE! SO
I ASKED HIM
TO BE LIKE
THAT!











NO IT
ISN'T...

SO HOW
COME
YOU'RE
LAUGHING?!



WELL,
JEEZ,
DUDE, I
MEAN...

WE'RE
TALKING
ABOUT
ME AND
KOIZUMI.
I MEAN,
THAT'S
KINDA
FUNNY!

LIKE,
IF WE
GO OUT,
WE KISS
AND STUFF,
RIGHT?!



IT IS?!
HOW
COME?



IT'S
LIKE, A
TOUGH
CALL?



I
THOUGHT
IT WAS
JUST A
MATTER
OF TIME
BEFORE
YOU GUYS
GOT
TOGETHER.

JEEZ,
ÔTANI.



Drip

Drip

Drip

Ugh, I'm
sweatin' just
thinking
about it...



LIKE
WHEN?!

LIKE
AFTER
YOU
TALKED
TO
KANZAKI
THAT
TIME.



'CUZ
YOU KEEP
SAYING
STUFF
TO
HER
THAT
SOUNDS
LIKE
THAT,
ALL
THE
TIME.



HEH?

HOW
COME?

THEY'RE
DONE!

All wrapped
up, too!!

W
H
A
A
T
?!

DEFIN-
ITELY!!

YOU
WANNA
COME
WITH, RISA,
AND GIVE
ÔTANI HIS,
TOO?

I KNOW
IT'S A
DAY EARLY,
BUT I'M
GIVING HIM
HIS NOW,
WHILE IT'S
FRESH!

WONDER
IF BABY'S
STILL AT
PRACTICE.

Don't
worry!

UH-OH...
THIS IS
KIND OF
A LOT.
DID WE
MAKE
TOO
MANY?

Riisaaa!
I don't
get
one?!

THAT'S
RIGHT.

YOU
DON'T
GET
ONE!!

EAT ONE
OF THE
ONES YOU
MADE!!

WHAT
ABOUT
ME?

YOU'RE
REALLY
GIVING
HIM
ONE?

YES!
NOW SHUT
UP AND
LEAVE ME
ALONE!!



I STILL
LOVE HIM,
AND I'M
GIVING
HIM THIS
VALENTINE
TO TELL
HIM THAT.

SO
HE
REJECTED
ME
ONCE,
BIG
DEAL!

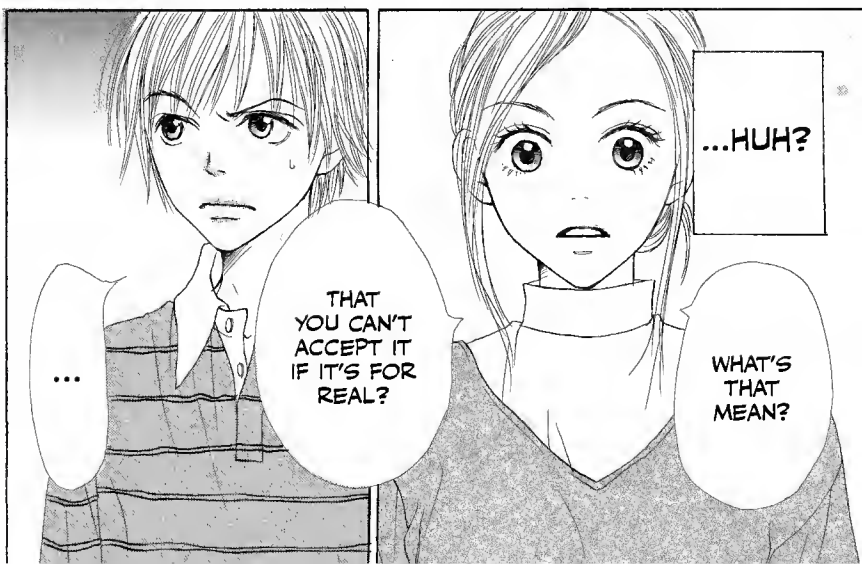
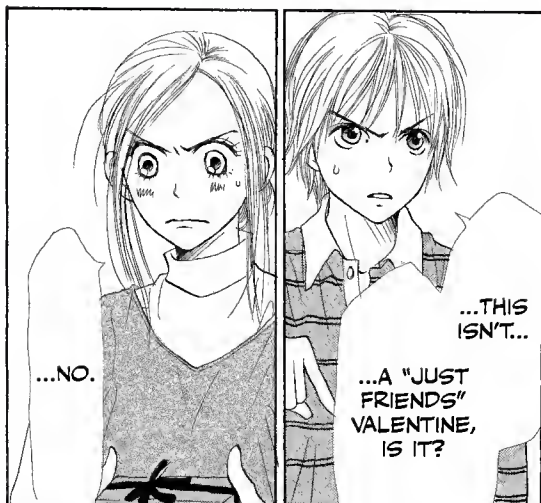
HAVING
HARUKA
BUST
IN AND
SAY THAT
STUFF
ACTUALLY
GOT ME
REALLY
MOTIVATED.



I'M NOT
GONNA
RUN OR
HIDE
ANYMORE.
THIS IS A
TOTALLY
FOR-REAL
"TRUE
LOVE"
VALENTINE,
AND I'M
GIVING IT
TO HIM.



TAKE THIS
VALENTINE,
ÔTANI,
AND TAKE
MY HEART
WITH IT!!



...AND
THAT
ÔTANI
KNOWS
THAT,
TOO.

YEAH,
BUT...

...WHAT'S
DIFFERENT
FROM
LAST
YEAR...

YOU
TOLD
ME YOU
WANTED
THIS!!

I KNOW,
BUT...
WELL...

HUH?

...SO,
WAIT.
ARE YOU
SAYING...

...IS
THAT THIS
VALENTINE
IS TOTALLY
FOR REAL...

DIDN'T
WE HAVE
THIS SAME
CONVERSA-
TION LAST
YEAR?

HEY,
ÔTANI!
COACH
WANTS
TO SEE
YOU!

...MM-
HM.

...

...THAT
YOU CAN'T
ACCEPT MY
FEELINGS
FOR YOU?

He's
in the
office.

NO
THANKS.

I'M
REALLY
START-
ING TO
THINK...

...

...THAT ST.
VALENTINE
HAS A
MAJOR
GRUDGE
AGAINST
ME...

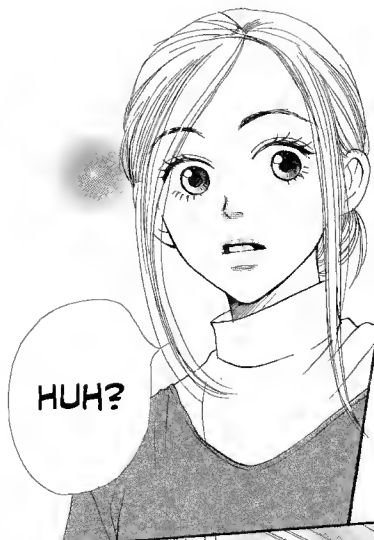
SORRY.

I
GOTTA
GO.

WAITA...

Sorry,
were you
talking?

No big
deal.



HUH?



It wasn't so dumb...

BABY SAID SOMETHING REALLY DUMB TO OTANI!

RISA! ARGH, SORRY!

OWW! SLOW DOWN!

WILL YOU HURRY UP?!



hff

hff

hff

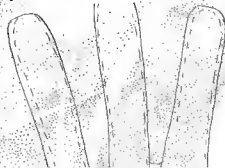
SO LONG AS YOU'RE NICE TO ME...
...THAT'S ALL I CARE ABOUT.

I DON'T CARE IF YOU DON'T MEAN ANYTHING BY IT.

WELL, I'LL MAKE IT UP TO YOU PRETTY SOON.

I JUST THOUGHT MAYBE... YOU MIGHT BE CRYING OUT HERE.

I HAVE A BETTER TIME WITH YOU! I GUESS MAYBE SHE'S NOT REALLY MY TYPE, AFTER ALL.





... 'CUZ THAT
CHEERS
ME UP AND
MAKES
ME WANT
TO KEEP
TRYING.

SO JUST
KEEP ON
BEING
NICE TO
ME...



SH



WAP



All
night,
sir,
bye

KRR



WHAT
CAN
I DO?
I'M
STUPID.

hfff

hfff



THUMP



WHY NOT?!

I TOLD YOU! I CAN'T!

YOU'RE ALWAYS SO DARN **EXTREME!** AND SINCE WHEN'RE YOU SUCH A BOY SCOUT, ANYWAY?!

'CUZ THIS VALENTINE OF YOURS IS FOR REAL! AND I'M NOT EVEN SURE HOW I FEEL ABOUT YOU! IT JUST ISN'T RIGHT!



JUST TAKE IT!!



IT'S ME! I SHOULD'VE GOTTEN OVER YOU AFTER YOU TURNED ME DOWN, BUT I DIDN'T!

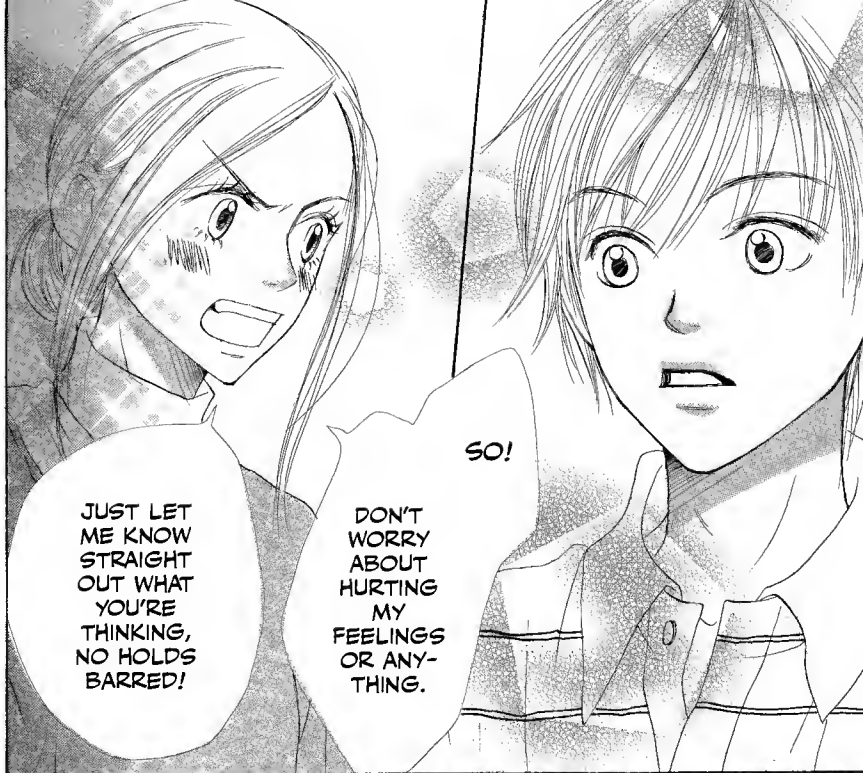
YOU HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING WRONG, ÔTANI! OKAY?

I DON'T THINK YOU'RE INSENSITIVE! OR THAT YOU'RE TOYING WITH MY EMOTIONS!



BOY...

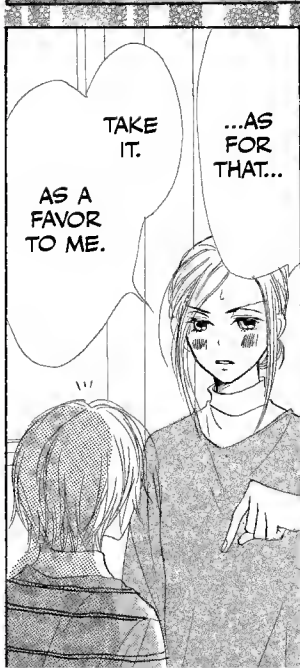
scout...?



JUST LET
ME KNOW
STRAIGHT
OUT WHAT
YOU'RE
THINKING,
NO HOLDS
BARRED!

SO!

DON'T
WORRY
ABOUT
HURTING
MY
FEELINGS
OR ANY-
THING.



TAKE
IT.

AS A
FAVOR
TO ME.

...AS
FOR
THAT...

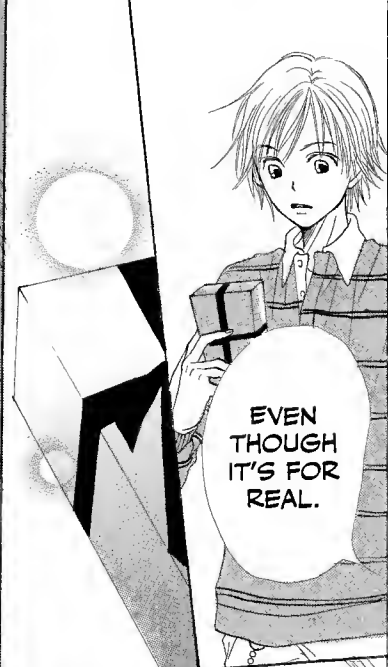


...

...KOIZUMI
...



...OKAY.



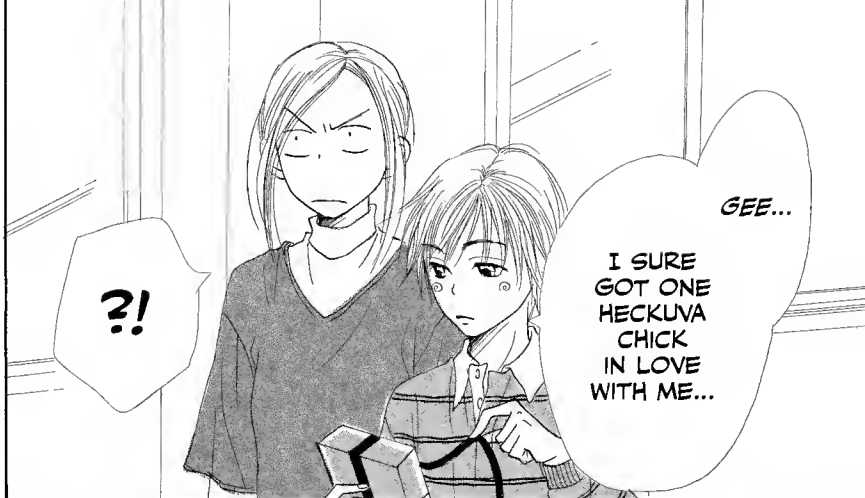
EVEN
THOUGH
IT'S FOR
REAL.



JUST SO
LONG AS
HE FALLS
FOR ME, A
LITTLE AT
A TIME.

I DON'T
CARE IF
IT TAKES
A LONG
TIME.

OKAY!



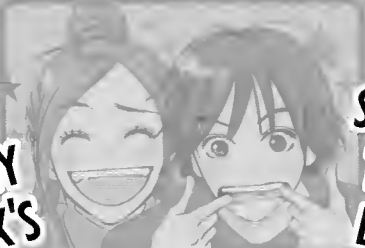
BETSULA love★com

COVER ART:
AYA NAKAHARA
SPECIAL
PRICE: ¥0

GOOD FOR
NOTHING!
INDEED,
A WASTE
OF TIME!

DETAILED
PROFILES
OF LOVELY
COMPLEX'S
6 MAIN
CHARACTERS!

LOVELY ★ COMPLEX



ON A
MUGGY
SUMMER
NIGHT...

GET
SOGGIER
THAN
EVER
WITH
BETSULUV!



LOVELY★COMPLEX CHARACTER DATA FILE

RISA KOIZUMI



ATSUSHI ŌTANI



LOPSIDED COMEDY DUO

RISA KOIZUMI PROFILE



ATSUSHI ŌTANI PROFILE

BIRTHDAY: AUGUST 3, 17 YEARS OLD

SIGN: LEO

BLOOD TYPE: O

HEIGHT: 5'8" (AND GROWING)

WEIGHT: 110 LBS

FAMILY: MOM, DAD, YOUNGER BROTHER

HOBBIES: GAMING, SLEEPING

LIKES: UMIBŌZU, FESTIVALS, NOSE PAKS

DISLIKES: NATTŌ (FERMENTED SOYBEANS), DENTISTS

DREAM: TO NOT GROW ANY TALLER

BIRTHDAY: MARCH 25, 17 YEARS OLD

SIGN: ARIES

BLOOD TYPE: A

HEIGHT: 5'2.16" (AND NOT GROWING)

WEIGHT: 99 LBS

FAMILY: MOM, DAD, OLDER SISTER, DOG (HUGE)

HOBBIES: BASKETBALL, WATCHING ACTION MOVIES

LIKES: UMIBŌZU, DOGS, CHOCOLATE, K-1

DISLIKES: OCCULT/PSYCHIC TV SHOWS, GHOST STORIES

DREAM: TO GROW TALLER

★ FASHION GUIDE ★

FAVORITE COLORS ARE RED AND YELLOW.
WEARS COMFY CLOTHES AND CHEAP CLOTHES.

★ FASHION GUIDE ★

FAVORITE COLOR IS ORANGE.
LIKES USED CLOTHING.

LOVELY★COMPLEX CHARACTER DATA FILE

NOBUKO ISHIHARA



HEIKICHI NAKAO



HONEY BUNNIES

NOBUKO (NOBU) ISHIHARA PROFILE

BIRTHDAY: MAY 28, 17 YEARS OLD

SIGN: GEMINI

BLOOD TYPE: B

HEIGHT: 5 FT.

WEIGHT: 92.5 LBS

FAMILY: MOM, DAD, GRANDMOTHER

HOBBIES: SHOPPING, FASHION

LIKES: DARLING (NAKAO) ♥

DISLIKES: HIGH PLACES, ALL BUGS

DREAM: TO BE A BRIDE ♥



FASHION GUIDE

LOVES CUTE, EYE-CATCHING CLOTHES.
INSPIRATION: MASAMI HISAMOTO



HEIKICHI NAKAO PROFILE

BIRTHDAY: JANUARY 15, 17 YEARS OLD

SIGN: CAPRICORN

BLOOD TYPE: B

HEIGHT: 5'11"

WEIGHT: 127.5 LBS

FAMILY: MOM, DAD, YOUNGER BROTHER, YOUNGER SISTER, GRANDMOTHER, GRANDFATHER, DOG

HOBBIES: BASKETBALL, COSPLAY

LIKES: NOBU ♥

DISLIKES: OYSTERS (GOT SICK ONCE)

DREAM: TO BE A BRIDE (TEE HEE)



FASHION GUIDE

NO PARTICULAR POLICIES.
CLOTHES PICKED OUT BY NOBU.



CHIHARU TANAKA



RYÔJI SUZUKI



THE AWKWARD COUPLE

CHIHARU TANAKA PROFILE

BIRTHDAY: JUNE 23, 17 YEARS OLD

SIGN: CANCER

BLOOD TYPE: A

HEIGHT: 4'11"

WEIGHT: 88 LBS

FAMILY: MOM, DAD, TWO YOUNGER BROTHERS

HOBBIES: READING, SEWING

LIKES: TEA, KOMBU PICKLE, CHILDREN

DISLIKES: REVOLVING DOORS, JOGGING

DREAM: PRESCHOOL TEACHER

RYÔJI SUZUKI PROFILE

BIRTHDAY: FEBRUARY 4, 17 YEARS OLD

SIGN: AQUARIUS

BLOOD TYPE: AB

HEIGHT: 6 FT

WEIGHT: 125 LBS

FAMILY: MOM, DAD, OLDER SISTER, TWO CATS

HOBBIES: SPACING OUT, COLLECTING FIGURINES

LIKES: SPACING OUT

DISLIKES: GETTING UP EARLY, CARS (GETS CARSIK)

DREAM: CIVIL SERVANT

FASHION GUIDE

LIKES SIMPLE CLOTHES IN
PASTEL COLORS.

FASHION GUIDE

FAVORITE COLORS ARE BLACK AND BLUE.
LIKES SHARP BUT CASUAL CLOTHING.

LOVELY★COMPLEX CHARACTER DATA FILE

glossary

Page 10, panel 2: Daikon pickle

Daikons are white radishes, and the most common variety is the Japanese aokubi daikon, shaped like a fat carrot. *Daikon* literally means "big root" in Japanese. Daikons are traditionally pickled in fall to preserve for the winter, most often by pickling. One popular daikon pickle is called *takuan*, the bright yellow variety you might find in sushi.

Page 25, panel 1: Hakodate

Hokkaido's third largest city, located on the island's southern tip, was one of the first cities opened to foreign trade after the Japanese era of isolation. It is known for the beautiful views from Mt. Hakodate, and the official city fish is the squid.

Page 25, panel 1: Sapporo

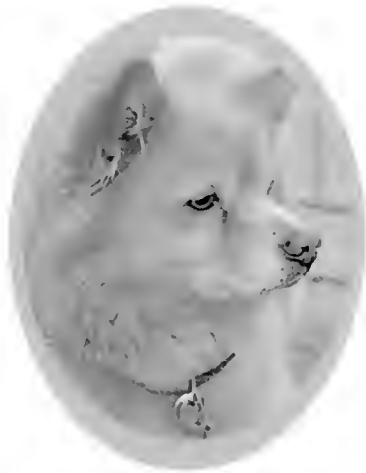
The capital of Hokkaido Prefecture and the fifth-largest city in Japan. The city was established on land traditionally occupied by the indigenous Ainu, and *sapporo* is derived from an Ainu word that some say means "large river running through a plain." It is home to the annual Sapporo Snow festival (*yuki matsuri*) and Sapporo Breweries, and the city hosted the 1974 Winter Olympics.

Page 69, panel 1: Senpai

A term of respect for someone with seniority in an organization, such as clubs, schools, and offices.

Page 150, panel 5: Bozo

This is a play on the Japanese word *mikabōzu*, which means someone who never sticks to anything, and the English meaning "fool."



Our Daggie of the Day is the Nakahara family's Kazaru (male, mixed breed). He's getting quite advanced in years, but still going strong. Whenever we have female visitors to the house, he gives them a bored sniff and then ignores them, but male visitors get him very excited! He follows them everywhere. And his daily routine is to leer charmingly at passers-by. Today, as always, you can be sure he's there out front, his auburn fur waving in the breeze as he searches avidly for his favorite treat, a middle-aged man.

Aya Nakahara won the 2003 Shogakukan manga award for her breakthrough hit *Love★Com*, which was made into a major motion picture and a PS2 game in 2006. She debuted with *Haru to Kuuki Nichiyō-bi* in 1995, and her other works include *HANADA* and *Himitsu Kichi*.

LOVE★COM VOL 5

Shojo Beat Edition



STORY AND ART BY
AYA NAKAHARA

Translation & English Adaptation/Pookie Rolf

Touch-up Art & Lettering/Gio Com Luc

Design/Yuki Amedo

Editor/Poncho Dizio

VP, Production/Alvin Lu

VP, Sales & Product Marketing/Gonzolo Ferreyro

VP, Creative/Lindo Espinosa

Publisher/Hyo Norito

LOVE★COM © 2001 by Ayo Nokohoro. All rights reserved.

First published in Japan in 2001 by SHUEISHA Inc., Tokyo. English translation rights arranged by SHUEISHA Inc.

The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this publication are entirely fictional.

No portion of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means without written permission from the copyright holders.

Printed in Canada

Published by VIZ Media, LLC

P.O. Box 77010

San Francisco, CA 94107

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2

First printing, March 2008

Second printing, November 2009



www.viz.com



www.shojobeat.com